

Acts 25 Study Guide

April 15, 2009

1. **Read all of Acts 25.** List below the main characters, their positions, and anything else you can learn about them from this chapter or other resources you may have.

2. **:1-3** What is the first thing the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem request of their new governor? (A surprising request since 2 years have gone by since they first charged Paul, & he has been in prison in Caesarea during that time.)

What is their motive?

3. **:4-5** How does newly appointed Governor Festus respond to the Jews' request?

4. **:6-7** The Jews came from Jerusalem to Caesarea and brought "many serious charges against him, which they could not prove." What were those charges? (see **21:27-29; 24:5-6**).

5. **:8-11** – Why do you think Paul appealed to Caesar?
Do you think he was afraid of another trial before the Jewish leaders? Did he fear for his own safety/life? As you think about these questions, consider the following:
 - a. Paul's attitude toward death/his own safety (**20:22-24 & 21:13**).

- b. Paul used every situation to declare the gospel. What do you think he envisioned should he be granted an audience with Caesar?
- c. Although many of the events during this difficult time in Paul's life appear to be the result of the political climate, greed among the authorities, etc., what is really going on and who is in control? (**1:8; 19:21; 23:11**).
6. **:13-22** As Festus talks to King Agrippa about Paul's case, what is his predicament concerning the charges against Paul?
7. **:23-27** How does Luke describe the events surrounding the entrance of Agrippa and Bernice into Festus' auditorium?
Who is really the "most important player" here? **The guy in chains!!**
How does Festus articulate his dilemma as he introduces Paul to Agrippa?
8. From time to time, we have referred to the similarities in the trials of Jesus and those of Paul. Both Jesus and Paul were charged by Jewish leaders, and turned over to Roman authorities who could find no basis for the charges. Although Jesus was wrongly accused and Pilate found no guilt in Him, Pilate gave in to the Jews' demands and allowed Jesus to be crucified. To this point, Paul has escaped execution at the hands of the Romans.
Why the different outcomes?

Again, who is in control?

What does this tell us about God's underlying purpose for Jesus' life?

His purpose for Paul?

