



Lesson 10

Paul on Trial

Acts 23:22 - 26:32

1. **Read Acts 23:22- 35.** Consider Paul's condition since arriving in Jerusalem—he has been in custody with no control over his circumstances. Remember a time when you felt like a prisoner to circumstance, were you also able to sense the Lord standing near? (23:11)
2. As Claudius Lysias transfers Paul to the authority of Roman Governor Felix, what had he concluded about his guilt or innocence? Read **Philippians 1:12-20**, how would you describe Paul's attitude to imprisonment?

Trial before Governor Felix

3. **Read Acts 24.** Tertullus' tactics might be where lawyers began to be looked at with the jaundiced eye of suspicion! Why is flattery a habit that corrupts? (See Romans 16:17, 18; Jude 15, 16)
4. Paul has stated three times in the last couple of chapters the "*real*" reason he is on trial. (23:6, 24:15, 24:21) Using **1 Corinthians 15:12-22**, why do you think that this doctrine is the real crux of the matter?
5. **Read Acts 24:22-27** focusing on Felix and his response to the personal mentoring of Paul. What warnings do you find as you compare Felix's response to the Spirit-produced trembling and that of the Philippian jailer in **Acts 16:25-20**?
 - a. How do you see **Ephesians 4:17-24** relating to Felix and the jailer?

Trial before Festus

6. **Read Acts 25.** After 2 years of imprisonment, how is God's plan for Paul progressed by the change in leadership from Felix to Festus?

Big Picture Note: *It is interesting to consider how many Herods were involved in plotting evil against Jesus and His followers. The Herods were descended from Esau, the one of which Scripture says, "Esau despised his birthright," and "the LORD says, "Yet I loved Jacob, but Esau I have hated." (Malachi 1:2-3)*

Herod the Great, Agrippa's grandfather, at the birth of Jesus passed the edict to kill all the baby boys around Bethlehem for fear that a new king was being born. Herod Antipas, the son of Herod the Great, beheaded John the Baptist and determined Jesus' death sentence when Pilate sent Jesus to him for trial.

Herod Agrippa I, grandson of Herod the Great, had James beheaded and arrested Peter and was the one struck down and eaten by worms. (Acts 12:20-23). Drusilla, the wife of Governor Felix, was a daughter of Agrippa I. It is Herod Agrippa II, son of Agrippa I, that Paul has an audience with in Acts 26. Bernice, the wife of Agrippa II was also a daughter of Agrippa I! She was later to become the mistress of Roman Emperor Titus and had to be banished due to the moral outrage of corrupt and pagan Rome! It is before this sin infested brother/sister/husband/wife couple that Paul once again tells his Jesus story.

7. **Read Acts 26.** Agrippa opens this scene by giving permission to Paul to speak for himself; after reading Paul's account, who do you think he was speaking for?

8. Think about Paul's words in **verse 29**. As you share your faith story with others, can you see yourself saying, "I pray God that not only you but all who are listening to me today may become what I am...?" Why or why not?

Closing: *Luke recorded Jesus' words to His followers in Luke 21:12-15. Pause to consider how these words were fulfilled in Paul's life and how Luke may have helped his friend Paul through it by sharing Jesus' words with him.*