

Acts 24

Acts 24.1-19

V1 – Why did the Jewish leaders "come down" to Caesarea? Because of the drop in altitude from Jerusalem to the seacoast (even though it was to the west)

-Some commentators think that Tertullus was probably practicing law in the provinces, so that he could set the stage for his move to Rome

V2 – Examples of flattery? Much peace, reforms, etc.

V3-4 – Examples of more flattery? "We hate to even bother you with this scum known as Paul..."

V5 – He sounds like a real politician

-Three charges against Paul?

1. A pest (disturber of the peace) – See *Acts 17.6* – same charge at Thessalonica

2. The ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes

3. He tried to profane the temple

-*"The sect of the Nazarenes"* – the Jews still viewed the Christians as a sect or small part of Judaism – They were like the Pharisees and Sadducees, etc., just another splinter group

-*V 14 - ...which they call a sect...*

-The word for *pest* refers to a plague, as in *Luke 21.11*

-So here was the greatest human preacher who ever lived, but he was just a pest to the Jewish leaders

V 6b-8a – Found in a late manuscript (the Received Text) – The New American Standard includes it in brackets, and the English Standard Version puts it in a footnote

V8 – What kind of flattery do we see in v 8? That Felix was so wise that he could make a good decision in this case

V9 – What did the Jewish leaders do at this point? "Cheered" for their lawyer (more theatrics)

Acts 24.10-21 - The speech of Paul (no hired lawyer)

V10 - Compare Paul's opening to that of Tertullus: Paul's is less showy and more frank and truthful

-Felix had been a judge for 6 years (a long time in the history of the Roman government)

V11-12 – Paul was only interested in worshipping Christ and was not a part of any plot

V13 – Paul added that the Jews had no proof for their charges

V14 – Is Paul lying here? No, Jesus did not come to destroy the law, but to fulfill it, which was the true destiny of the Law of Moses and Judaism

V15 – Emphasis on the resurrection of the dead – See *1 Cor. 15.12-19*

V 16 – **Where have we heard this before?** *Acts 23.1* (before the Sanhedrin)

V 17 – *"alms to my nation"* – **Explain:** Money for the poor Christians who were starving in Jerusalem

V 18 – Paul was worshipping peacefully in the temple in Jerusalem and was carrying out a vow according to the Law of Moses (*Acts 21.23-26*)

V 19 – **What had happened to the 40 Jews who were not going to eat or drink until they had killed Paul?** They were not present (they probably did not actually starve to death, but just did not make it to Caesarea)

-Paul challenges them to produce witnesses

-Notice that it was the Jews from Asia who had caused the most grief for Paul

V 20 – **Whom did Paul want to meet?** His accusers

V 21 – **What was the one point that Paul believed caused all the trouble?** His reference to the resurrection of the dead (which certainly was not a capital offense to the Roman Empire)

Acts 24.22-27

V 22 – Felix knew of Christianity

-**What preacher lived in Caesarea?** Philip (with his four daughters) – See *Acts 21.8*

-Also the prophet Agabus lived in this general area

-Felix knew that Paul was innocent, but he wanted to please the Jews

-There is no record of Claudius Lysias ever coming to Caesarea

V 23 – **What was Felix's true feeling about Paul?** That he was innocent

V 24 – Drusilla (his "wife") was the daughter of Herod Agrippa I, who had murdered the Apostle James

-Her great uncle was Herod Antipas, who had murdered John the Baptist

-Her great-grandfather Herod the Great was the king who had all the baby boys murdered in Bethlehem

-So this tells us about her evil and wicked background

-At this point, she was 20 years old and was said to be very beautiful

V 25 – **What did Paul speak about in his lesson to the assembled people?**

1. Righteousness – Felix had taken bribes

2. Self-control (chastity) – Drusilla had left her husband to marry him

3. The judgment to come

-**What was the decision that Felix made concerning the preaching of Paul?** He would call for Paul at some other time

-**Is there any record of Felix ever calling Paul back and obeying the gospel?** None whatsoever

-**What great spiritual lesson can we learn from this verse?** A person should never put off obeying the gospel

V 26 – Why was he hoping for money from Paul?

1. Paul had mentioned alms for his nation
2. Luke could have been mistaken for a servant or a slave who belonged to Paul
3. Luke could have been seen as Paul's personal physician who was traveling with him (a sign of great wealth on Paul's part)

V 27 – It is generally believed that Luke wrote much of the book of *Acts* in these two years

-Felix was recalled by Nero to Rome in 60 A.D. (7 years before the attack on Jerusalem began)

Any great lessons we can learn from this chapter?

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