

Paul is Kept in Caesarea for Two Years

Text: Acts 24:22-27

Introduction

"But when Felix heard these things, having more accurate knowledge of the Way, he adjourned the proceedings and said, "When Lysias the commander comes down, I will make a decision on your case." (vs. 22).

Question #1: What does Felix's response here seem to imply? [He knows that Paul is innocent but doesn't want to offend the Jews --see vs. 27; Waiting for Lysias, gave him a means of avoiding conflict here; he knew that Paul was innocent]

"So he commanded the centurion to keep Paul and to let him have liberty, and told him not to forbid any of his friends to provide for or visit him" (vs. 23).

Question #2: What does the governor's actions here seem to affirm? What opportunities will this still leave open for Paul?

"And after some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ" (vs. 24).

Question #3: Comment on the sovereignty of God here.

"Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you" (vs. 25).

Question #4: Comment on the topics that Paul addressed here. How should this inform us in our evangelistic efforts today? How does this line up with modern day evangelistic efforts, in general? Apply.

Question #5: Comment on Felix's response. What happened here? Why did this happen? Apply.

"Meanwhile he also hoped that money would be given him by Paul, that he might release him. Therefore he sent for him more often and conversed with him" (vs. 26).

Question #6: Comment on the primary motive for Felix's sending for Paul often. What does this tell us about Felix? What would be the harm in Paul catering to this desire? What justifying reasons might someone in Paul's shoes use to cater to this desire? What does this teach us about how *we* are to view God's moral and decreed wills? Apply.

"But after two years Porcius Festus succeeded Felix; and Felix, wanting to do the Jews a favor, left Paul bound" (vs. 27).

Question #7: Earlier, God had assured Paul that he would get to Rome. What does this event teach us about God's promises? Consider such examples as Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Israel, David...etc in this light. [Note the events surrounding Hagar and Ishmael]. Apply.

Question #8: Consider again, Felix's motive for keeping Paul bound. What do we find here, again, concerning the heart of man? Apply.

Question #9: With the replacing of Felix with Festus, what providential opportunity will Paul be given again?