

The Acts of the Apostles

Chapters 25

To The Uttermost

Memory Verse: Acts 1:8; 9:15; Heb 7:25

"But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel"

I. Introduction

- A. The message of the gospel is supposed to reach all classes of people, in all walks of life, at every level of society. It is not just for the "down-and-outer" but also for the top-dogs. Both are lost and hell-bound, in need of the Saviour (Rom 3:10, 23; Luke 14:16-24), but usually only those who have no money, do surrender - money and power can so effectively blind!
- B. The job of the Christian is to testify to everyone (Acts 20:21), but not everyone is going to accept it (1Cor 1:25-29)!

II. Background

- A. At this point in Acts, Paul is in chains, and bound by the false accusation of the Jews who "hated" what the Apostle Paul had become - a traitor to their traditions, and customs - he went against the flow, and bucked the system, and they noticed it was having an effect on everybody (Acts 17:6)!
- B. Remember those guys in Acts 23:12? If they stayed true to their word, they would be quite dead by now after TWO years of waiting of Paul! But that only means that another bunch have just taken their place (25:3)!

III. Lesson - "To The Uttermost"

A. Porcius Festus the _____ Hears Paul (25:1-12)

1. The Jews still wanted Paul dead (25:2-3), even after weeks of court and legal delays!
 - a. They came again to try to convince the government to kill him.
 - b. But non of the things could they prove (25:7)
 - c. PRINCIPLE: As a Christian, live your life so that it is " _____"! Christians are still sinners, but don't be proud of it!!!
2. Festus tries to get Paul to agree to go to Jerusalem (25:9) - a normal politician - trying to "appease" those he seeks to CONTROL!
3. Paul says, "No way! I have had enough of Jerusalem. It is time for me to go to Rome. I stand at Caesar's judgement seat. I appeal unto Caesar. (25:9-12)
 - a. A _____ plea that protects you as innocent, until proven guilty
 - b. A _____ plea, or else Paul would be set-back more years (already lost 2 years being focused on Jerusalem)!
 - c. NOTE: Paul says, "If I have done anything worthy of death, I refuse not to DIE..." (25:11). Paul accepts the concept of **capital punishment**. When you are right with God, you never worry about DEATH.
 - d. Capital punishment (Gen 9:5,6) is the only valid justice for premeditated murderers - not 2-5 years!
4. Festus tells King Agrippa about Paul (25:13-22) who says that he too would like to hear Paul preach. People in those days loved some entertainment (no TV, radio, etc). So people would listen to PREACHING - as with John the Baptist!

B. _____ is Introduced to Paul (25:23-27)

1. Paul is brought forth (25:23), and introduced by Festus (25:24-27) to a full court! Agrippa is the son of Heron Agrippa (12:1) - not friendly, but Agrippa is bored enough to want to meet this guy.
2. Festus classifies Paul the following ways:
 - a. A man that the Jews say ought not to live - should be crucified like the One that he so openly preaches about
 - b. A man that seems to be innocent by law - both by the Law of God's word, and by the law of the land - can anyone here say the same about their own life?!
 - c. A man who has appealed to Caesar - wanted to take his message all the way to the very top - use the pressure put on him for the broadcasting of the Gospel message far and wide, high and low!
 - d. A man that has no record, so no reason for me to send to Caesar. So Festus asks for Agrippa to listen to the case, and give his opinion, and so he does!
 - e. A man that has set his life to declare some "superstitions" about:
 - 1) Jesus - where is the mention of Mary, or blessed John the Baptist, or St. Peter, etc?
 - 2) His death - for sin's punishment
 - 3) His resurrection - He's alive!
3. Someone that just doesn't fit the "system" not a serial killer, or normal troublemaker - "I don't know what to write Caesar about him!"