

ACTS: To the Ends of the Earth

Study 55: On Trial

READ Acts 24 and **LISTEN** to the [sermon](#) by Pastor Craig.

After Paul's providential escape from Jerusalem to Caesarea he is once again on trial before his accusers. In an attempt to convince Felix, a powerful career politician, to lay charges against Paul, the Jewish council hire a rhetorically gifted and politically shrewd lawyer, named Tertullus. However, despite Paul's obvious innocence to the charges presented against him, Felix believes it is more politically expedient to delay justice and leave Paul imprisoned for two years. Yet, during this time Paul is used by God in a dramatic way to bring the gospel to Festus and his wife.

Big idea: Christians are called to remain faithful witnesses, who trust in God and rest in His judgement, in the face of personal injustice.

Questions:

1. A. Have you been falsely accused or slandered? How did this make you feel and how did you respond?

B. From Jesus' example in 1 Pet 2:21-23 how should we respond? See also Prov 12:22 and Eph 4:15.
2. Notice the contrast in how Tertullus and Paul addressed Felix (vv. 2-4, 10). What does God think of flattery and why? See Prov 26:24-28; 29:5; Job 32:21-22.
3. What three charges did Tertullus bring against Paul (vv. 5-6) and were they true?

4. In summary, how did Paul answer the three charges given?
5. Why was the resurrection so important to Paul (vv. 15, 21) and how does it confirm that Jesus was more than just a man crucified by the Romans?
6. What was the verdict Felix gave and how did this affect Paul (vv. 22-23, 27)?
7. Paul spoke to Felix about "faith in Christ Jesus" (v. 24). Briefly explain what each aspect of this message means from verse 25.
8. A. How did Felix respond when he heard the gospel (vv. 25-26)? Why?

B. How should people respond when they hear the gospel today? Why?
9. What has been the main takeaway from this lesson and what will you do in response?

STOP AND PRAY:

Praise: God for His love for the lost and His desire that they might come to salvation

Thank: the Holy Spirit for convicting the world of sin, righteousness and judgement

Pray: for boldness and grace to stand for Christ and share him when slandered