

STUDYING THE BOOK OF ACTS
IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lesson 63 - The Trial Before Felix - [Acts 24:1-27](#)

Read the following verses in the Last Days Bible or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

The Trial before Felix

24 Five days later, Ananias the High Priest arrived with the elders and a certain lawyer named Tertullus, to present their case against Paul before the governor.

² Paul was sent for, and after he arrived, Tertullus began his accusations:

“Thanks to Your Excellency we have enjoyed a long period of peace,” he said, addressing the governor. “Because of your insight, our nation is becoming prosperous everywhere and in every way.

³ “We are most grateful and thankful for these blessings, Most Excellent Felix.

⁴ “But I don’t want to take up too much of your time, so I beg you to listen kindly to us for just a few minutes.

⁵ “We have found this man to be a most dangerous troublemaker, a real pest. He has constantly been stirring up riots among the Jews throughout the world. He’s a ringleader of the Nazarene sect.

⁶ “He even tried to desecrate the Temple. We arrested him and wanted to judge him according to our Law.

⁷⁻⁸ “But Commander Lysias came along and violently took him out of our hands. Now he has ordered his accusers to come before you. “By questioning him yourself, you can verify these accusations.”

⁹ Then the other Jews also joined in the attack, insisting that all this was true.

¹⁰ The governor then motioned to Paul to speak. “I am very happy, your Honor, to defend myself before you,” Paul began, “as I know you have administered justice in the affairs of our nation for many years.

¹¹ “You can easily verify that it was no more than twelve days ago that I went up to Jerusalem to worship.

¹² “My accusers didn’t find me arguing with anyone, or stirring up a riot, neither in the Temple, the synagogue, nor anywhere else in the city.

¹³ “Nor can they prove the charges which they are now making against me.

14“I confess that I do serve the God of our fathers by following the Way of Jesus, which they call a sect. But I still believe everything that is written in the Law and in the Prophets.

15“I have the same hope in God that these men have—that there will be a resurrection of the dead, of both those who have lived pure and honest lives, and of those who have lived in sin.^a

16“Because of this, I do my best to keep my conscience clear at all times, by living honorably in my dealings with both God and man.

17“And now, after many years of absence, I returned to bring gifts to the poor in my nation and to offer sacrifices.

18“It was while I was doing this that some Jews from the province of Asia found me in the Temple after I had completed the ceremony of purification. I hadn’t gathered a crowd, and there was no riot.

19“It is those Jews who ought to present themselves before you and accuse me, if they have anything against me.

20“Or let these who are here speak up, if they found me guilty of any crime when I stood before their Council,

21unless it was the one statement I made when I cried out, ‘I am being judged by you today for only one reason, because I believe in the resurrection of the dead!’”

22After hearing both sides, Felix, who was well informed about the Way of Jesus, put the Council off by saying, “I will make a thorough examination regarding your case when Commander Lysias comes down.”

23He then ordered the captain to keep Paul under guard, but to allow him some freedom and to allow his friends to visit him and bring him whatever he needed.

Paul before Felix and Drusilla

24Several days later Felix sent for Paul. His wife Drusilla, a Jewess, was with him, and they listened as Paul explained what it meant to believe in Christ ***Jesus***.

25As Paul discoursed on righteousness, self-control, as well as about the coming Day of Judgment, Felix became frightened, and said, “That’s all for now. When I find a convenient time I’ll call for you again.”

26He was also hoping that Paul would offer him money to release him, so he called him in quite often and talked with him.

27Two years later, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus. But because Felix wanted to gain favor with the Jews, he left Paul in jail.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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926. Why did the religious leaders hire Tertullus? ([24:1](#))
927. Who went to Caesarea? Why? ([24:1-8](#))
928. Why did Tertullus flatter Felix? ([24:2-4](#))
929. What three accusations did Tertullus make against Paul? ([24:5-8](#))
930. Who supported Tertullus in his accusations? ([24:9](#))
931. Speaking in his own defense, how was Paul's introduction different from the lawyer's? ([24:10](#))
932. What points did Paul make in his defense before the governor? ([24:11-16](#))
933. What was Paul's objective in visiting Jerusalem? ([24:17](#))
934. What did Paul say about the charges brought against him? ([24:11-18](#))
935. How did the apostle show that Tertullus did not have any legitimate charges against him? ([24:18-21](#))
936. What did Felix do about Paul's case? ([24:22-23](#))
937. How did the governor provide Paul with limited freedom? ([24:23](#))
938. How did Paul's speaking affect Felix? ([24:24-25](#))
939. What motivated Felix to send for Paul? ([24:26](#))
940. Why did Paul languish in prison for over two years? ([24:26-27](#))
941. Before leaving his position as governor, what did Felix do to appease the Jews? ([24:27](#))