

STUDYING THE BOOK OF ACTS
IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lesson 64 - The Trial Before Festus - [Acts 25:1-12](#)

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.

Paul Asks to be Tried by the Roman Emperor

25 Three days after Festus arrived in the province, he left Caesarea and went up to Jerusalem.

² There the High Priest and other Jewish leaders brought their charges against Paul before him.

³ They also asked him to order Paul's transfer to Jerusalem, because they were still plotting to ambush and kill him on the way.

⁴ But Festus said, "Paul should stay in Caesarea, and I'll be returning there soon.

⁵ "So let your leaders go with me and press charges if he has done any wrong."

⁶ He stayed more than ten days in Jerusalem, and then returned to Caesarea. The next day, he took his place on the judge's bench and ordered that Paul be brought in.

⁷ When Paul arrived, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around making many serious charges against him. But they couldn't prove any of them.

⁸ In his defense, Paul continued to insist, "I am not guilty. I have committed no crime against the Jewish Law or the Temple or against the Emperor."

⁹ But Festus, who wanted to please the Jewish leaders, asked Paul, "Would you be willing to go up to Jerusalem and be tried on these charges before me there?"

¹⁰ "I am now standing before Caesar's court, where I should be tried," Paul replied. "I have not wronged the Jews in any way, as you well know.

¹¹ "But if I had committed a crime deserving death, I would not beg to escape the death penalty. But the charges these men are bringing against me amount to nothing, and no one has the right to hand me over to them. I appeal for a hearing before Caesar!"

¹² On hearing this, Festus talked the matter over with his legal advisers. Then turning to Paul he said, "You have appealed to Caesar, so to Caesar you will go!"

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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942. How did the procurator's visit to Jerusalem show that he wanted to rule justly? ([25:1](#))
943. Who appeared before Festus in Jerusalem? ([25:2](#))
944. What did the Jewish leaders want? ([25:2](#))
945. Why did the leaders want Paul transferred from Caesarea to Jerusalem? ([25:3](#))
946. How did Festus reply to the request to transfer Paul? ([25:4-5](#))
947. How did the scene of previous trials repeat itself when Paul was brought before Festus? ([25:6-7](#))
948. What did Paul say to the court? ([25:8](#))
949. Why did Festus ask Paul if he was willing to go to Jerusalem? ([25:9](#))
950. Why did Paul want nothing to do with standing trial in Jerusalem? ([25:10-11](#))
951. Why did Festus send Paul's case to Caesar? ([25:11-12](#))
952. Why was opposition to Paul by the Jewish leaders still strong, even though Paul had been under house arrest for two years?

Lesson 65 - Festus Consults King Agrippa - [Acts 25:13-27](#)

Paul Before Agrippa and Bernice

¹³Several days later, King Agrippa and Bernice arrived at Caesarea to pay official respects to Festus.

¹⁴They had been there several days when Festus told the king about Paul's case. "There's a man here," he said, "who was left in jail by Felix.

¹⁵"When I was in Jerusalem, the chief priests and elders of the Jews talked to me about him, insisting that I condemn him.

¹⁶"I, of course, reminded them that Roman law does not allow a man to be condemned before he's been allowed to meet his accusers face to face so that he can defend himself against the charges being made.

¹⁷"So when they came here with me from Jerusalem, I convened the court the next day without delay, and ordered that the accused be brought in.

18“But when his accusers got up to speak, they didn’t accuse him of anything I had supposed they would.

19“Instead, they brought up some trivia about their own religion in which Paul didn’t believe as they did. They also differed about someone named Jesus who had died, but whom Paul kept insisting was alive.

20“Perplexed as to how to handle such a case, I asked him if he would go to Jerusalem and stand trial there on these charges.

21“But when Paul appealed his case to the Emperor, I ordered that he remain in custody until I could send him to Caesar.”

22“As a matter of fact,” Agrippa said, “I’ve been wanting to hear the man myself.”
“I’ll arrange for you to hear him tomorrow,” Festus agreed.

23So the next day, after Agrippa and Bernice had entered the audience hall with great pomp and ceremony, along with the army commanders and prominent men of the city, at the command of Festus, Paul was brought in.

24Then Festus addressed those assembled: “King Agrippa, and all of you present here with us, you see this man standing here. The entire Judean community has brought charges against him before me, both while I was in Jerusalem, and also after I returned here. They continue to loudly demand that he should not be allowed to live any longer.

25“But I haven’t found him guilty of anything deserving death. And since he has himself requested that his case be tried before the Emperor, I’ve decided to send him to Rome.

26“But I have nothing that amounts to anything that I can write to His Majesty concerning the charges against him. So I’ve brought him out to appear before all of you, and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that after this inquiry I may have at least something to write.

27“After all, it seems rather senseless to me to send a prisoner to the Emperor without stating valid charges against him.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 65 - Festus Consults King Agrippa - [Acts 25:13-27](#)

953. Why did King Agrippa and his sister visit Festus? ([25:13](#))

954. What motivated Festus to bring up Paul’s case to King Agrippa? ([25:14-21](#))

955. Why would Agrippa’s insight and advice be helpful to Festus? ([25:14-21](#))

956. How did Festus tell the story from a Roman point of view? ([25:14-21](#))
957. How did Festus handle this long-standing case? ([25:17](#))
958. In reviewing the case with Agrippa, what did Festus say was the main charge against Paul? ([25:17-19](#))
959. Why was Festus, in a sense, paralyzed by Paul's case? ([25:19](#))
960. Why did Festus feel incapable of handling Paul's case? ([25:19-20](#))
961. Why had Paul wanted to remain in Roman custody? ([25:21](#))
962. How did Agrippa respond to the governor's story? ([25:22](#))
963. How did Agrippa and Bernice use the occasion of their meeting with Paul to display their position and power? ([25:23](#))
964. Who commanded Paul to be brought in? ([25:23](#))
965. How was this meeting a fulfillment of the prophecy in [Luke 21:12](#)? ([25:23](#))
966. How did Festus open the proceedings? ([25:24-26](#))
967. In opening the proceedings, what did Festus say to his royal guests? ([25:24-26](#))
968. Why did Festus bring Paul before this group? ([25:26-27](#))
969. How had Festus become tangled in a difficulty of his own making? ([25:25-27](#))