

# THE BOOK OF ACTS

## ACTS 25:1-12 | LESSON SUMMARY

### To Caesar

**ACTS 25:1**, "Now three days after Festus had arrived in the province, he went up to Jerusalem from Caesarea." (ESV)

- Festus has replaced Felix
  - Felix was abruptly removed to stand charges that result in his banishment
- Festus does not have background on Paul's case
  - There has apparently been no official communication on the charges related to Paul
  - History will remember Festus as a generally "good" and fair ruler
  - Festus will not rule long, as he dies approximately 2 years later
- Festus goes to Jerusalem where the chief priest's scheme once again to ambush and assassinate Paul
  - "...asking as a favor against Paul that he summon him to Jerusalem—because they were planning an ambush to kill him on the way." (Acts 25:3)
  - Festus does not allow himself to be manipulated in this instance and requests the leaders accompany him back to Caesarea
  - Uncertain whether he knew their intentions



# THE BOOK OF ACTS

## ACTS 25:1-12 | LESSON SUMMARY

**ACTS 25:7**, "When he had arrived, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him, bringing many and serious charges against him that they could not prove." (ESV)

- These are not the charges Festus expected
  - Festus seems confused by the lack of any evidence; he does not seem to grasp what's happening
- Paul argues his innocence: he has not committed any offense to the Jews, the temple, or Caesar.

**ACTS 25:9**, "But Festus, wishing to do the Jews a favor, said to Paul, "Do you wish to go up to Jerusalem and there be tried on these charges before me?"

- Knowing what would await him in Jerusalem, Paul appeals to Caesar
  - "But if there is nothing to their charges against me, no one can give me up to them. I appeal to Caesar." (Acts 25:11)
  - This was his right as a Roman citizen
  - Paul has already escaped one assassination attempt



# THE BOOK OF ACTS

## ACTS 25:1-12 | LESSON SUMMARY

ACTS 25:12, "Then Festus, when he had conferred with his council, answered, "To Caesar you have appealed; to Caesar you shall go."

- To those not familiar with The Way, Paul's request would undoubtedly seem odd
  - He is clearly innocent, yet requests they take his case to a higher court
  - Each time his life is in danger

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:** Jeremy L. Williams, *Criminalization in Acts of the Apostles; Race, Rhetoric, and the Prosecution of an Early Christian Movement*, Kelly Leslie, *Philosophers, Jews and Christians in the Roman Empire: authority, text and tradition*, F.F. Bruce, *The Book of Acts*

