

2024 - Family Devo

Nov 17 - a

READ: Acts 25:10-12

Main Idea: Festus asks Paul if he would be willing to stand trial in Jerusalem. Paul knew this would be a trap. So he says no to that, and instead appeals to the highest court a Roman citizen could request, before Caesar. This would be both a privilege because of his Roman citizenship, but also an opportunity to preach Jesus to the most powerful human leaders of that time.

DISCUSS

Children: God has given Paul specific details about where he would testify and share the Good News. Since God was very clear in His plan for Paul, he knew that it was not God's plan for him to return to Jerusalem since he already testified there. Paul told Festus that the charges the Jews had against him were not true. He told Festus that he wanted to go to the highest authority. He asked to stand before Caesar. Festus talked with his advisors and said, "You have asked to stand before Caesar. To Caesar you will go!" Whether Paul wondered why he had to be imprisoned or not, the Holy Spirit enabled him to be patient and trust God to use his life in the way He knew was best. It was God's plan for Paul to go to Rome and if it was God's plan for him to go as a prisoner he would trust God.

Teen: Paul has this privilege because he is a Roman citizen. Does being a citizen in the Kingdom of God afford us any privileges? If so, what privileges? Paul used his privilege to continue to preach Jesus. How do you use yours? Paul was willing to accept correction for wrongdoing under the earthly kingdom's laws. Are you willing to accept correction in the Kingdom of God?

Adult: Do you think Paul was considering Jesus' unfair trial before the Jews as Festus asked to move the trial to Jerusalem? Festus was basically asking Paul to put himself into an area where the Jews had stronger influence. Do you suppose that Paul learned about Jesus' trial in his studies to be a lawyer? Would that have made it "to the textbooks?" Or do you think the Sanhedrin covered all the illegalities they committed in the trial so Paul would have known none of it?

PRAY

MEMORIZE

Psalm 147:5 (ESV)
**Great is our Lord, and
abundant in power;
his understanding is
beyond measure.**



2024 - Family Devo

Nov 17 - b

READ: Acts 25:13-22

Main Idea: As Festus is a new governor, a neighboring ruler king Agrippa comes to welcome him. Festus explains the situation with Paul, but he does so by exaggerating and embellishing any part that would make himself look good, and minimizing or omitting any part that would make him look bad.

DISCUSS

Children: A few days after the trial with Paul, King Agrippa and his sister Bernice visited Festus. As Festus spent time with Agrippa during his visit he talked with him about his situation with Paul. He explained that Paul had not been accused of any crimes that he would have expected. He learned that the real issue that the Jews were accusing Paul about had to deal with a man named Jesus. Festus told Agrippa that Paul didn't want to go to Jerusalem for a trial but asked to go to Caesar and allow him to hear the case. King Agrippa said that he would like to hear Paul speak. Festus agreed that the following day he would bring Paul to speak before King Agrippa.

Teen: Who is Festus trying to impress, God or man? When we are less than honest about a situation, who are we trying to impress? Who are you hurting by doing so?

Adult: Do you think Festus is tentative because he is newly come to his position? Or do you think he wanted to talk about Paul with King Agrippa to increase his own importance? Or was it just something to fill the time he spent with Agrippa? What types of discussions are conducted in private between rulers in our current time? Not just what is done for the press, but as they sit elbow to elbow over a dinner table? Do you think religion is discussed?

PRAY

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