

Acts 25 “I Appeal to Caesar”
Acts 25:1-12
May 24, 2026

Acts 25:1-12

Three days after Festus arrived in the province, he went up to Jerusalem from Caesarea. 2 The chief priests and the leaders of the Jews presented their case against Paul to him; and they appealed, 3 asking for a favor against Paul, that Festus summon him to Jerusalem. They were, in fact, preparing an ambush along the road to kill him. 4 Festus, however, answered that Paul should be kept at Caesarea, and that he himself was about to go there shortly. 5 “Therefore,” he said, “let those of you who have authority go down with me and accuse him, if he has done anything wrong.” 6 When he had spent not more than eight or ten days among them, he went down to Caesarea. The next day, seated at the tribunal, he commanded Paul to be brought in. 7 When he arrived, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him and brought many serious charges that they were not able to prove. 8 Then Paul made his defense: “Neither against the Jewish law, nor against the temple, nor against Caesar have I sinned in any way.” 9 But Festus, wanting to do the Jews a favor, replied to Paul, “Are you willing to go up to Jerusalem to be tried before me there on these charges?” 10 Paul replied, “I am standing at Caesar’s tribunal, where I ought to be tried. I have done no wrong to the Jews, as even you yourself know very well. 11 If then I did anything wrong and am deserving of death, I am not trying to escape death; but if there is nothing to what these men accuse me of, no one can give me up to them. I appeal to Caesar!” 12 Then after Festus conferred with his council, he replied, “You have appealed to Caesar; to Caesar you will go.”

James 1:14

14 But each person is tempted when he is drawn away and enticed by his own evil desire. 15 Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is fully grown, it gives birth to death.

The Law never could deal with the root issue.

Acts 25:10

10 Paul replied, “I am standing at Caesar’s tribunal, where I ought to be tried. I have done no wrong to the Jews, as even you yourself know very well. 11 If then I did anything wrong and am deserving of death, I am not trying to escape death; but if there is nothing to what these men accuse me of, no one can give me up to them. I appeal to Caesar!”

Paul’s appeal was intentional.

Acts 26:30-32

30 The king, the governor, Bernice, and those sitting with them got up, 31 and when they had left they talked with each other and said, “This man is not doing anything to deserve death or imprisonment.

32 Agrippa said to Festus, “This man could have been released if he had not appealed to Caesar.”

Paul wants something even greater than freedom.

Rivalries.

Acts 23:11

11 The following night, the Lord stood by him and said, “Have courage! For as you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so it is necessary for you to testify in Rome.”

Paul is bound to Christ and more free than his accusers.

Philippians 1:21-24

21 For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. 22 Now if I live on in the flesh, this means fruitful work for me; and I don't know which one I should choose. 23 I am torn between the two. I long to depart and be with Christ—which is far better— 24 but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for your sake.

Paul's purpose for living has reset.

“...your faithful love is better than life.” - Psalm 63:3

Life Group Discussion Questions

- 1.) What did God say to you through His Scripture during our Sunday gathering?
- 2.) What is being revealed in the religious leaders as they are still pursuing Paul's death after two years? What might this teach us about sin and evil? What is a difference between being religious and gospel-centered?
- 3.) Acts 26:32 says that if Paul had not appealed to Caesar he could have been set free. Why do you think Paul appealed to Caesar? What is more important to Paul than his freedom? How does this moment in Paul's life help us elevate our priorities?
- 4.) Discuss the idea that Paul, bound to Christ, is more free than his accusers?
- 5.) How is Jesus resetting your bottom line? How have the important things that used to make life worth living adjust because of Jesus? Can you give a personal example?
- 6.) Philippians 1:21 says, “For me, to live is Christ to die is gain.” Explain this sentiment in your own words. How does this statement express so much of a heart changed by the gospel?