

Paul's Trial Before Felix

Acts 24:1–23

A. God Empowers People

1. The Bible has many examples of people who stood firm for their convictions.
2. Faithfulness to Christ will bring opposition,
3. But God empowers His people to testify boldly and live with integrity.
4. Paul's trial reveals courage in a clear conscience & the power of faithful witness
5. The Holy Spirit had warned him against going to Jerusalem (Acts 20:23)
6. Paul determined to go even though the Disciples told him not to go (21:4)
7. Paul is on trial again—not for crimes, but for his faith in Christ.
8. He stands before Felix, the Roman governor, with clarity and courage.

B. The Accusations Against Paul (vv. 1–9)

1. Paul had had trouble when he was in Jerusalem (Acts 22-23)
2. His telling of his conversion brought persecution from the zealous Jews.
3. They called on the soldiers to arrest Paul, & have him flogged.
4. Paul appealed his rights as a Roman citizen, to prevent this.
5. Paul was taken to appear before Felix, the Roman Governor in Caesarea.
6. Paul's main accuser was Tertullus, an eloquent lawyer & a professional orator.
7. Tertullus opens with insincere flattery: "*We enjoy great peace under you...*"
8. In reality, Felix was a corrupt and brutal ruler.
9. It was said he ruled "with the mind of a slave and the power of a king."
10. The world compromises truth & uses manipulation to gain favour.
12. A believer's words should reflect grace and truth. (Col. 4:6).
13. Tertullus presented charges against Paul, that:
 - a. He was a disturber of the peace, by stirring riots & being a public menace.
 - b. He was a mover of sedition among all Jews.
 - c. He was the leader of the "sect of the Nazarenes,"
 - d. He was a profaner of the temple.
14. A mix of political & religious charges to make Paul appear dangerous
15. Daniel & Jesus accused because they threatened the status quo with godly truth.
16. Believers can expect false accusations & get the same treatment. (John 15:20)
17. One charge against Paul was true: he was a leader among Christians.
18. The world persecutes those who love Christ and serve Him (2 Tim. 3:12)
19. A believer's words should reflect grace and truth. (Col. 4:6).
20. The Jews agreed with the accusation - mob justice over truth.
21. Expect opposition and misrepresentation for standing with Christ.

C. The Defence by Paul (vv. 10–21)

1. Paul answered his accusers, presenting reasoned arguments.
2. Paul speaks courteously but truthfully, giving a respectful clear response.
3. Some people might have given in to discouragement, or been bitter.
4. He had not gone to Jerusalem to cause a riot, but to worship God

5. He explains his purpose: to bring gifts for the poor & to present offerings.
6. He had only been in Jerusalem for 12 days and had no time to stir up riots.
7. No eyewitnesses are presented—his accusers have no proof.
8. He confessed that he was a believer in Christ.
9. He insisted that he worshiped according to the words of the prophets
10. He admitted that he believed in a resurrection of the just and the unjust
11. Paul's truthful answers made his accusers accountable to God
12. Paul points out the lack of evidence against him.
13. Confesses belief in “the Way,” rooted in Scripture and hope in the resurrection.
14. He reaffirms the core issue: the resurrection of the dead.
15. He seeks to live with integrity, & he is a faithful witness.
16. *We are called to give a clear, respectful defence of our faith* (1 Peter 3:15).

D. Paul Shared His Aim in Life with Felix (vv. 16-21)

1. Paul wanted to have a clear conscience, one void of offense toward God and men.
2. Paul wanted to be generous, bringing gifts to the poor of his people
3. Paul wanted Felix to know that the resurrection is important (Rom. 10:9)
4. Are you right with both God and people?
5. Are you ready for Christ's return and the resurrection?

E. The Response of Felix (vv. 22–23)

1. Felix now understood more about the gospel, but delays judgment.
2. For political reasons, he feared both the Jews & implications of Paul's message.
3. Many know the truth but delay responding. Spiritual procrastination is dangerous.
4. Paul has partial freedom, he is kept under guard but given some liberty.
5. God's providence grants Paul influence, even in chains.
6. *God uses every circumstance, even trials, to accomplish His purpose.*

F. Conclusion:

1. Paul's trial reveals more than a courtroom drama.
2. It shows a man of conviction standing firm in faith.
3. Paul was accused without cause, defended with truth and grace, & given influence even in confinement.
4. His example teaches us to i) speak truth without fear, ii) keep a clean conscience before God & iii) to seize every opportunity to witness—even in adversity.
5. Expect opposition when you live for Christ.
6. Keep your conscience clean—integrity speaks louder than defence.
7. Use every moment to point to Jesus, even when the world puts you “on trial.”
8. Don't be like Felix—don't delay a response to God's truth.
9. Are you ready to stand for your faith like Paul?
10. Is your conscience clear before God and others?
11. *“The gospel is not on trial— your response to it is ”*
12. Do others know more about the gospel because of you?