

Digging Deeper by Robert Lee
Sermon Series: *Through the Storm*
Scripture Lesson: *Acts 25:23-27*

Monday – Read Acts 25:23 and pray for Spiritual Discernment. Recall from previous scripture lessons that Festus, a Roman governor of Judea, was in Caesarea at the request of the chief priests and the Jewish leaders. His mission was to transfer Paul from prison to Jerusalem, for the Jewish leaders were planning an ambush to kill Paul along the way. Since King Agrippa II and his sister Bernice were in Caesarea to pay their respects to Festus, he decided to discuss Paul’s case with the king. In verse 23, we see that “the next day Agrippa and Bernice came with great pomp and entered the audience room with the high-ranking military officers and the prominent men of the city. At the command of Festus, Paul was brought in.”

Tuesday – Read Acts 25:24 and pray for Spiritual Obedience. In verse 24, Festus presented Paul before the prominent men of Caesarea with Agrippa and Bernice in attendance. Festus announced that he was petitioned by the Jewish community in Jerusalem and Caesarea who thought Paul ought not to live any longer. Although Festus was obedient by carrying out the wishes of the Jewish leaders, his knowledge of the Roman custom left him at a loss on how to investigate such matters as Paul was being accused of.

Wednesday – Read Acts 25:25 and pray for Spiritual Integrity. Pause a minute to think about the situation that Festus faced while speaking before the king and other prominent men of Caesarea about the Jewish community’s case against Paul. In verse 25, we find that Festus agreed to send Paul to Rome, not because he deserved to die but because Paul appealed to the emperor.

Thursday – Read Acts 25:26 and pray for Spiritual Fortitude. In verse 26, we see Festus’ honesty and boldness about the case against Paul come out in full force. Although Festus was willing to do the Jewish leaders the favor of transferring Paul to Jerusalem for the ambush, Paul’s defense left him without words, pleading for help from Agrippa and other prominent leaders in Caesarea.

Friday – Read Acts 25:27 and pray for Spiritual Wisdom. In verse 27, Festus announces that he thinks that it is “unreasonable” to send a prisoner on to Rome without specifying the charges against him. Outrageous, irrational, awkward, unacceptable, ludicrous are similar to the word unreasonable. What other similar words can you think of to describe Festus’ thoughts in this moment of truth?

Saturday – Read Acts 26 and pray for Spiritual Development. Hopefully, something was presented in this lesson that leaves you wanting to learn more about how this Biblical story unfolds.