

Power to Witness in Word and Deed —Part 2

The Book of Acts

Acts 24:1—25:12

Read Acts 24:1–9.

1. The high priest, Ananias, some elders, and Tertullus the lawyer go down to Caesarea to bring charges against Paul. Who else should have been there and why? (Acts 21:27–29; 24:19)
2. Review Acts 23:1–10, 26–30. Why do you think it was a good idea for Ananias to bring Tertullus? (24:2–4)
3. What are the three accusations made against Paul? (24:5–6)

Read Acts 24:10–21.

4. How does Paul answer the first charge, that of being a troublemaker? (24:11–12)
5. Tertullus wants to distance Paul from mainstream Judaism so he labels him the leader of a “sect” (v. 5). This implies that Paul is a heretic. Paul disagrees, of course!¹
 - a. What three beliefs does Paul say Jews and Christians have in common? (24:14–15)
 - b. How has Jesus transformed our understanding of these beliefs?
 Heb. 10:19–22

 Mt. 5:17; Gal. 3:23–25

 Rom. 6:3–5
6. Paul prefers to talk about the Christians as followers of “The Way” (24:14, 22. See also Acts 19:9, 23). Why is this a better description of...
 their beliefs? (Jn. 14:6; Acts 16:17)

 their lifestyle? (Eph. 5:2; 2 Jn. 1:6)

¹ “For Paul, the knowledge of God in the face of Jesus the Messiah meant not that he was abandoning the faith of his ancestors but that he was penetrating to its very heart.” N.T. Wright, *Acts for Everyone: Part Two, Chapters 13-38* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008), 187.

7. How does Paul defend himself against the third charge, that he “tried to desecrate the temple” (24:6)? (24:17–18)

8. Paul cuts through all the lies and posturing. What is at the heart of the Jewish opposition? (24:20–21; Acts 2:31–32, 36–38)

Read Acts 24:22–27.

9. Over the course of two years Paul has the opportunity to witness many times to Felix, a corrupt and self-serving governor.
 - a. What aspects of the gospel does Paul share with Felix? (24:24–25)

 - b. Why do you think Felix is afraid in verse 25? (Consider Acts 17:30–31.)


 - c. We do not need to fear if we have “faith in Christ Jesus” (24:24). Why? (1 Cor. 1:30)

Read Acts 25:1–12.


10. It is obvious that much of the criminal case against Paul is flimsy, but just like Felix, Festus chooses to act out of self-interest and fails to judge justly. Paul should have been released; instead, he is used as a political pawn (24:27; 25:9).
 - a. How do the religious authorities in Jerusalem pursue their charges against Paul with the new governor? (25:1–3, 6–7)

 - b. Why does Paul finally appeal to Caesar? (25:9–11)

11. Luke’s purpose in writing Acts is to show how Jesus’ ministry moves forward by the power of the Holy Spirit through his disciples “to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8).
How is Paul walking in the footsteps of Jesus and continuing His ministry? (Lk. 4:16–19)

12. For Paul, walking in Jesus’ footsteps would mean imprisonment and ultimately martyrdom.
 - a. How is God at work through these circumstances? (Phil. 1:12–14; * Gen. 50:20)

 - b. How have you seen God at work through difficult circumstances in your life?

*The  symbol indicates verses for further study.