

Strong Tower Bible Study

Agenda

Lesson #21

Time 6:00pm -7:30pm

Topic: Becoming a Patient Person

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Scripture text: Acts 25:1-21

Paul's Trial Before Festus

Three days after arriving in the province, Festus went up from Caesarea to Jerusalem, 2 where the chief priests and the Jewish leaders appeared before him and presented the charges against Paul. 3 They requested Festus, as a favor to them, to have Paul transferred to Jerusalem, for they were preparing an ambush to kill him along the way. 4 Festus answered, "Paul is being held at Caesarea, and I myself am going there soon. 5 Let some of your leaders come with me, and if the man has done anything wrong, they can press charges against him there."

6 After spending eight or ten days with them, Festus went down to Caesarea. The next day he convened the court and ordered that Paul be

brought before him. 7 When Paul came in, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him. They brought many serious charges against him, but they could not prove them.

8 Then Paul made his defense: “I have done nothing wrong against the Jewish law or against the temple or against Caesar.”

9 Festus, wishing to do the Jews a favor, said to Paul, “Are you willing to go up to Jerusalem and stand trial before me there on these charges?”

10 Paul answered: “I am now standing before Caesar’s court, where I ought to be tried. I have not done any wrong to the Jews, as you yourself know very well. 11 If, however, I am guilty of doing anything deserving death, I do not refuse to die. But if the charges brought against me by these Jews are not true, no one has the right to hand me over to them. I appeal to Caesar!”

12 After Festus had conferred with his council, he declared: “You have appealed to Caesar. To Caesar you will go!”

Festus Consults King Agrippa

13 A few days later King Agrippa and Bernice arrived at Caesarea to pay their respects to Festus. 14 Since they were spending many days there, Festus discussed Paul's case with the king. He said: "There is a man here whom Felix left as a prisoner. 15 When I went to Jerusalem, the chief priests and the elders of the Jews brought charges against him and asked that he be condemned.

16 "I told them that it is not the Roman custom to hand over anyone before they have faced their accusers and have had an opportunity to defend themselves against the charges. 17 When they came here with me, I did not delay the case, but convened the court the next day and ordered the man to be brought in. 18 When his accusers got up to speak, they did not charge him with any of the crimes I had expected. 19 Instead, they had some points of dispute with him about their own religion and about a dead man named Jesus who Paul claimed was alive. 20 I was at a loss how to investigate such matters; so I asked if he would be willing to go to Jerusalem and stand trial there on these charges. 21 But when Paul made his appeal to be held over for the Emperor's decision, I ordered him held until I could send him to Caesar."

New Vocabulary:

Pharisee-A Jewish religious group whose name means "separated". They sought to live out the first five books of the Law in the strictest way.

Things to know:

The Apostle Paul was raised by the Law (The Torah) First five books of the Hebrew scriptures, The Pentateuch {Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy}

Paul was a Pharisee before encountering Christ

We are to see God during hard situations

Paul demonstrated the power of Patience

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever been accused of something you didn't do? Vs 5-7
2. How did you manage your Thoughts? Emotions? And Speech?
 - 2a. How did Paul manage his Thoughts? Emotions? And Speech?
Vs 8-10
3. What was the toughest part of the process for you? How did Paul handle himself? Vs11.
4. What response did he receive from the governor Festus? Vs 12
5. How can you remain calm when others attempt to provoke you?
Vs 13-20
6. What was the governor's response? Vs 21 (Proverbs 16:7)

Faith in Action:

- Encourage yourself by thanking God for all the ways He has made for you this week.
- Share what you learned in Bible Study with someone
- Tell someone one thing you learned about Jesus
- Rest in knowing God sees the details

Challenge of the Week: Practice patience in:

Your Thoughts: Shift your attention away from the circumstance and on the Lord who controls all circumstances

Your Emotions: Allow the holy spirit to oversee your emotions, feelings and reactions this week. *Tip:* Pay close attention to your heart rate. When it rises Pause and Pray.

Your Speech: Pray for self-control over your tongue, we do not want to weaken our witness to others with our words. We must practice being a good witness for Christ even during times of stress and hostility (Proverbs 15:18)

Scripture Application

Galatians 6:9 -Should we “do good” only when others are looking? What will help us remain consistent in doing what is right?

Psalms 37:7-What are we encouraged to do?

Exodus 14:14- How should we apply this scripture to our life?

Closing Prayer

