

Persevere with Passion with the same old message

“you shall be witnesses to Me and to the end of the earth”

Group Teaching | 24 October 2023
Acts 25-26 (ESV)

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But you will receive power
when the Holy Spirit has come upon you,
and **you will be my witnesses**
in Jerusalem
and *in all Judea and Samaria*,
and *to the end of the earth*

Paul took four missionary journeys:

1st: through Cyrus, Pamphylia, and Galatia.

2nd: through Galatia, Macedonia, and Achaia.

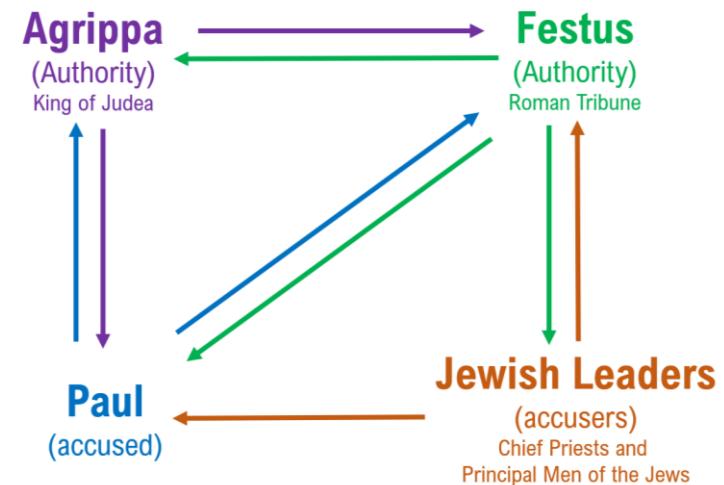
3rd: through Galatia, Asia, Macedonia, Achaia, end at Jerusalem.

imprisoned in Caesarea for at least 2 years

Today's Passage

Acts 25-26

4th: not clear, maybe in Spain, Crete, Asia, Achaia, Macedonia.



Acts 25-26

Today's Passage
At Caesarea

25:1-12

Paul & Festus

- Paul appealed
- Festus approved

25:13-22

Festus & Agrippa

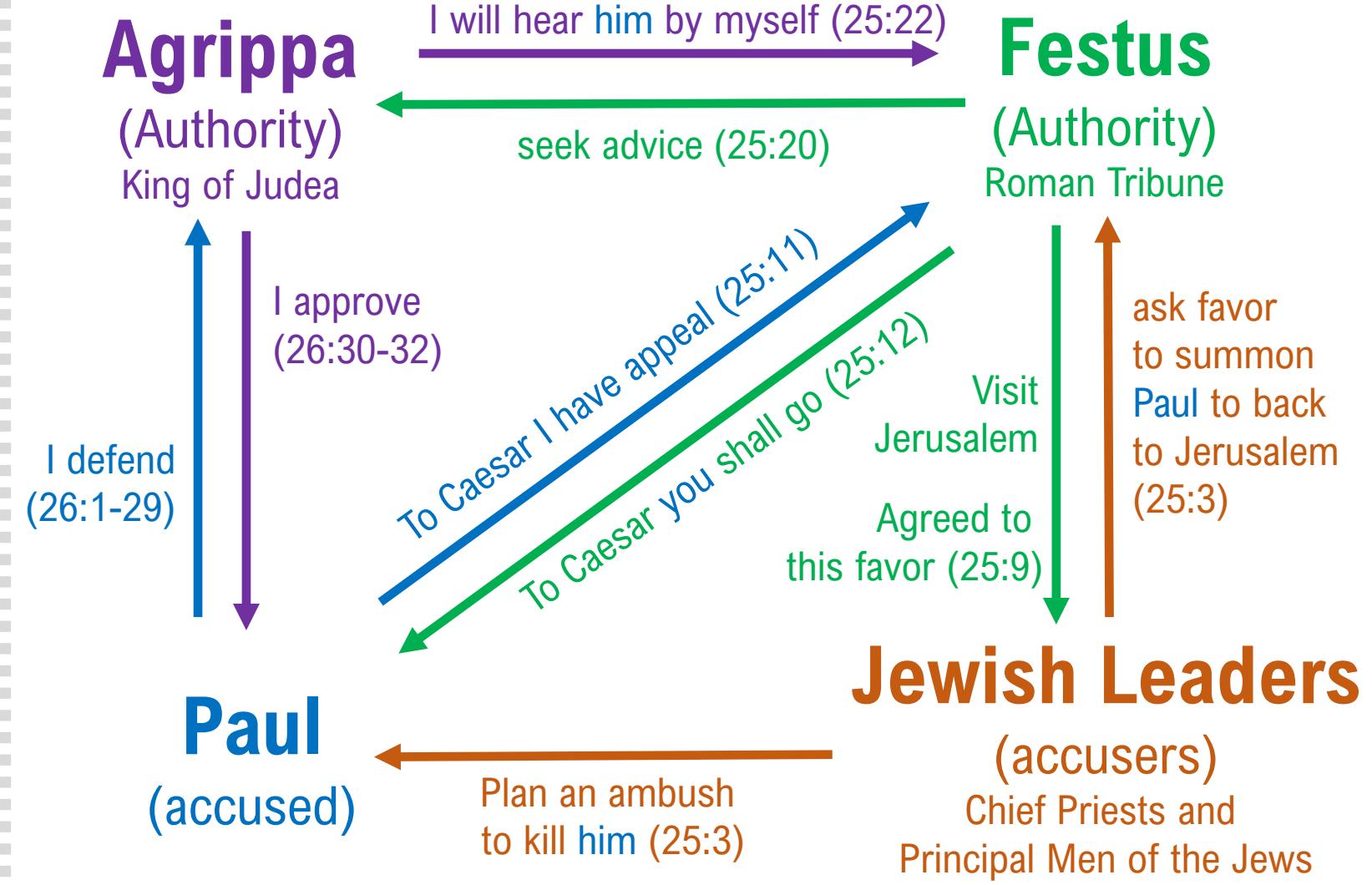
- Festus sought for advice
- Agrippa stepped in

25:23-26:32

Festus, Agrippa & Paul

- Festus setup the hearing
- Paul defended his stand
- Agrippa approved the appeal

What amazes you after reading two chapters?



Understand Authority

Roman Emperor

Caesar _____

Roman Governor

(For Judea Region)

Name _____

King of Judea

(Herodian Family)

King Herod _____

Paul' Time

Caesar
Claudius Caesar
Nero

Felix Festus

King Herod
Agrippa II

Agrippa

(Authority)
King of Judea

I defend
(26:1-29)

Paul

(accused)

I will hear him by myself (25:22)

seek advice (25:20)

To Caesar I have appeal (25:11)
To Caesar you shall go (25:12)

Festus

(Authority)
Roman Tribune

ask favor
to summon
Paul to back
to Jerusalem
(25:3)

Jewish Leaders

(accusers)
Chief Priests and
Principal Men of the Jews

Visit
Jerusalem
Agreed to
this favor (25:9)

Plan an ambush
to kill him (25:3)

I approve
(26:30-32)

Key Observation Trend

After the expected arrest (at Jerusalem)

Paul defended himself 5 rounds
and waited __ years patiently
to eventually get an approval to go Rome.

KEY THEME

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power
when the Holy Spirit has come upon you,
and **you will be my witnesses**
in Jerusalem
and in all Judea and Samaria,
and to the end of the earth

Saul → Paul: Old Life & New Life

Acts 7:54-60 = stoning of Stephen by Saul

Acts 8:1-3 = persecution against the church by Saul

Acts 9:1-19 = conversion of Saul at Damascus with Ananias' help

Acts 13:47 = salvation to the ends of the earth (Rome)

Acts 21:37-22:29

fore the Mob
fathers" (22:1)
his **upbringing** as a Jew
language
under Gamaliel
er as Pharisee persecuting Ct
his new identity in Christ
appened at Damascus
anias
y God to proclaim Jesus

Acts 22:30-23:11

fore **the Jewish Council**
his **belief** in Christ's R
gh priest (Ananias) & apologised
id among the Pharisees & Sadducees.
ir resurrection
Paul to take **courage**
sUS
ission to Rome (23:11)

Acts 23:12-24:26

• They (some Jews) so wanted Paul (a Jew) dead at all cost
• They (Romans) so wanted Paul (a Roman) alive at all cost

Paul spoke
before **Felix the Governor** (24:10)
Paul continue to proclaim the **gospel message** as God's witness
• Gospel proclaimed during Roman Custody

Acts 24:27 When two years had elapsed, **Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus.**
And desiring to do the Jews a favor, Felix left Paul in prison (at Caesarea).

Teaching Point #1

*In doing **LONGDRAWN** God's Work, we must*

Persevere to defend the gospel (repeatedly)
Patient to wait upon God's timing

to see breakthrough for His Work

Acts 24:10 > Paul to Felix (Roman Governor)

**“Knowing that for many years
you (Felix) have been a judge over this nation,
I cheerfully make my defense.”**

Acts 26:2 > Paul to Agrippa (King of Judea)

**“I consider myself fortunate that it is before you,
King Agrippa, to make my defense today.”**

Understand Authority	Paul' Time
Roman Emperor Caesar	Caesar
Roman Governor (For Judea Region) Name	Festus
King of Judea (Herodian Family) King Herod	King Herod Agrippa II

Acts 25-26

25:

Paul

- Paul
- Festus

Key Observation Trend

At the final 5th defense (at Caesarea)

Paul defended with clear conscience
and proclaimed the HOPE with conviction
with the desire that all who hear will repent.

25:13-22

Festus & Agrippa

- Festus sought for advice
- Agrippa stepped in

25:23-26:32

Festus, Agrippa & Paul

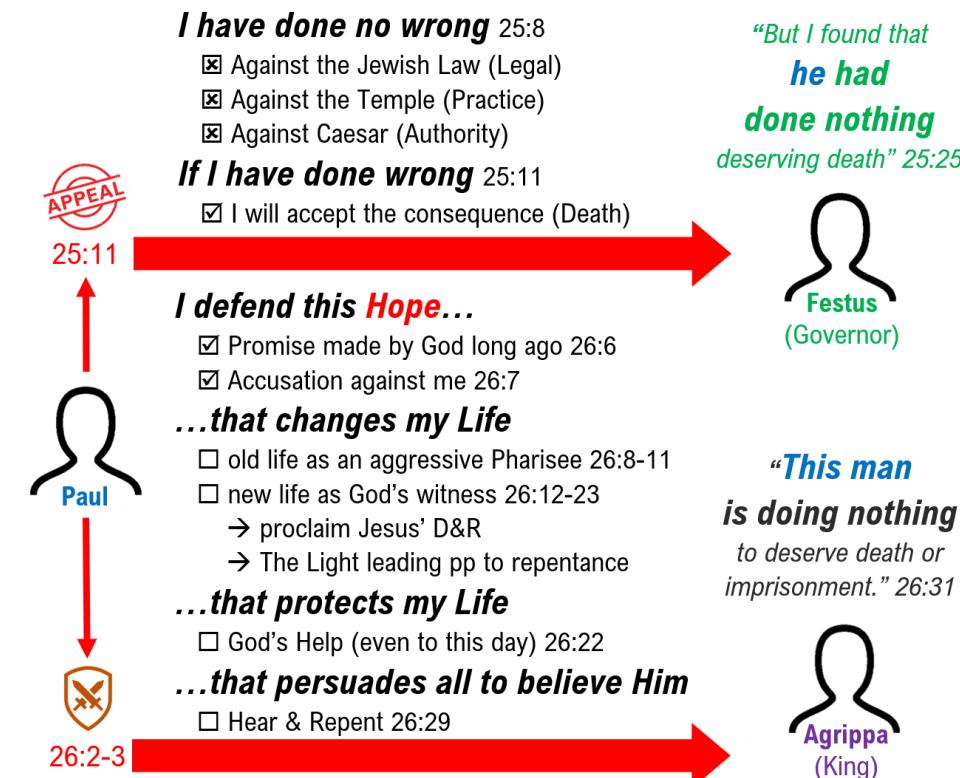
- Festus setup the hearing
- Paul defended his stand
- Agrippa approved the appeal

Teaching Point #2

*In proclaiming the **SAME** message, we must be governed by*

Consistency & Clear Conscience
Clarity & Conviction

with the desire to see repentance from the hearers



Comparative Observations: Similar Experience

1. Involvement of Roman Authority & King of Judea
2. Found nothing wrong with the accused
3. Yet Roman Authority will give in to the mass' decision

Suffer like Christ



Understand Authority

Jesus' Time

Paul' Time

Roman Emperor

Caesar _____

Caesar
Augustus Caesar
Tiberius

Caesar
Claudius Caesar
Nero

Roman Governor

(For Judea Region)

Name _____

Pontius Pilate

Felix Festus

King of Judea

(Herodian Family)

King Herod _____

King Herod
Antipas

King Herod
Agrippa II

Persevere with Passion with the same old Message



“you shall be witnesses to Me and to the end of the earth”

Reality #1
Struggle with
STAMINA to go on

Teaching Point #1

*In doing **LONGDRAWN** God's Work, we must*

Persevere to defend the gospel (repeatedly)
Patient to wait upon God's timing
to see breakthrough for His Work

Words of Affirmation

Acts 26:22

*To this day I have had the
help that comes from God,
and so I stand here testifying
both to small and great...*

Reality #2
Struggle with
MOTIVATION to go on

Teaching Point #2
*In proclaiming the **SAME** Message, we must be governed by*
Consistency & Clear Conscience
Clarity & Conviction
with the desire to see repentance from the hearers