

Prepared by Pastor Heike based on the Lutheran Study Bible

Chapter 24

Paul before Felix at Caesarea (V. 1-9)

- What are the accusations against Paul?

Paul's Defense before Felix (V. 10-23)

- The trial reflects very well the conflict between the Jews and the Jews who believe in Jesus Christ (they were called sect of the Nazarenes). What is the main issue that separates these groups?

Paul Held in Custody (V. 24-27)

- Paul is under house arrest for two years. What does Felix hope to receive from Paul?

Chapter 25

Paul Appeals to the Emperor (V. 1-12), Festus Consults King Agrippa (V. 13-22), Paul brought before Agrippa (V. 23-27)

- Felix is succeeded by Festus as procurator of Judea (it is not quite clear if Felix passed away or if he was dismissed because of being corrupt and cruel). Soon after he arrives he takes care of Paul's case and the question arises where his case should be heard – Jerusalem or Rome? Festus doesn't seem quite sure what to do with Paul and when King Agrippa from Judea arrived, the question was discussed with him. Do you see any parallels to Jesus' story?

Chapter 26

Paul defends himself before Agrippa (V. 1-11), Paul Tells of His Conversion (V. 12-18), Paul Tells of His Preaching (V. 19-23), Paul Appeals to Agrippa to Believe (V. 24-32)

- In his defense speech Paul tells Agrippa his story from being a persecutor of the followers of Christ to his conversion and to preaching to the Gentiles. His defense speech is actually a faith testimony and appeals to Agrippa and Festus to believe in Christ as well. In the end both don't seem to see anything wrong in Paul's point of view, are they new believers yet? – we don't know. Have you ever held a 'defense speech' of your faith or have you given a testimony of your faith? Write down what you would tell someone who doesn't believe in Jesus Christ about your faith! Tell your faith story and how Jesus Christ works in your life!

Chapter 27

Paul sails to Rome (V. 1-12), The Storm at Sea (V. 13-44)

- Paul is sent with other prisoners to the emperor in Rome, but the journey starts late in the year and sailing is dangerous. Nevertheless, the crew is determined to reach their destination and they go on an adventurous trip. In the end they shipwrecked on a sandbank close to an island. Out of fear that the prisoners could escape they wanted to kill them, but the centurion wanted to save Paul and hindered them to follow through with their plan. Paul was aware from the beginning of the trip that his life would be at stake, but that God had a plan with him and that he would be saved. In what ways have you experienced Gods' help in times of danger?

Chapter 28

Paul on the island of Malta (V. 1-10), Paul arrives in Rome (V. 11-16), Paul and Jewish Leaders in Rome (V. 17-21), Paul preaches in Rome (V. 23-30)

- Luke has given the journey to Rome in Acts a lot of space. Why do you think he told the story so detailed?
- It is interesting to see that Paul was a prisoner indeed and under house arrest, but he actually had lots of freedom to preach and to spread the good news about Jesus Christ (the issue he was actually accused for). What could be the reason for this?
- V. 29 is left out of newer translations. Does it matter?