



Witnessing with a Broken Heart

By Shannon Ford on June 29, 2022

TODAY'S READING: Acts 24

In Acts 24, Paul is under arrest and awaiting trial before Felix, the Roman governor of Judea. After hearing the charges from the Jewish leaders and Paul's rebuttal, Felix quickly perceives that Paul had done nothing worthy of Roman punishment. But he knows that if he acquits Paul, the Jewish leaders will stir up a riot and try to murder Paul. So, Felix keeps Paul in prison until the end of his term of office.

In Acts 24:24-25, we read about Paul's private conversation with Governor Felix and his wife Drusilla. What a contrast! Felix, the governor; Paul, the gospel preacher. Felix, the judge; Paul, the prisoner. Felix, outwardly free, but with chains on his soul; Paul, chained outwardly, but free in his soul. One cannot help but be amazed by Paul's witness on this occasion. He was certainly not intimidated by those before whom he stood. Do not get the idea that Paul was tactless or rude as he spoke. He was witnessing for a Savior who died so people like Felix and Drusilla might be saved. He was witnessing with a broken heart.

Paul pleads with a broken heart as he speaks to both Felix and his wife and appears to have their attention and respect. But neither acted on what Paul was sharing. Unfortunately, the arousal of their hearts was only temporary. Paul gave both Felix and Drusilla an opportunity to be saved. Paul did not fail. Felix and Drusilla failed. Paul must have left with a broken heart.

We must never allow a person's position, prominence or prosperity keep us from giving them an opportunity to know Jesus. People all around us desperately need to hear the message. Why should you allow who they are or the position they occupy to rob them of hearing it? When you speak out and witness for the Lord and do not get the response you hope for, do not give up and stop sharing with others. Be like Paul, keep going until you find someone willing to respond. You never know who is listening and ready to respond.

PRAYER: Lord, You have commanded us to be Your witnesses regardless of the situations or the people before us. As we see our family and friends continue to live apart from Christ, break our hearts for their lostness and burden us to be a witness for You. Amen.

TOMORROW'S READING: Acts 25

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