

## Acts 24-26 Summary

Acts 24–26 continues Paul’s long season of imprisonment and trials, revealing how God uses delays, injustice, and political maneuvering to advance the gospel. Paul first stands trial before Felix, who is already well acquainted with “the Way.” Rather than dismissing Paul outright, Felix listens to him repeatedly as Paul speaks boldly about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come. These truths unsettle Felix, causing fear rather than repentance. He famously responds, “That’s enough for now. You may leave. When I find it convenient, I will send for you.” Yet Felix’s interest is not purely spiritual—he secretly hopes Paul will offer him a bribe. As a result, Paul remains imprisoned for two years, a victim of political convenience rather than justice.

When Felix is succeeded by Festus, Paul’s case is reopened. Jewish leaders again press charges and request that Paul be tried in Jerusalem, plotting to kill him along the way. Festus, eager to gain favor with the Jews, considers the request, but Paul—knowing the danger—appeals to Caesar, exercising his rights as a Roman citizen. This appeal sets Paul on an irreversible course toward Rome, exactly as the Lord had promised.

Before sending Paul to Caesar, Festus consults Herod Agrippa II, who is intrigued by Paul’s case and asks to hear him personally. Paul delivers one of his most compelling testimonies, recounting his conversion, his calling to preach to both Jews and Gentiles, and the resurrection of Jesus. Far from merely defending himself, Paul turns the trial into an evangelistic opportunity, addressing Agrippa directly. Agrippa famously responds, “Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?” Paul replies with heartfelt sincerity, expressing his desire that all who hear him might become like him—except for his chains.

The chapter closes with Agrippa and Festus agreeing that Paul has done nothing deserving death or imprisonment. Tragically, they conclude that Paul could have been set free—if he had not appealed to Caesar. Humanly speaking, Paul remains bound by legal processes and political indecision. Spiritually speaking, however, he is exactly where God intends him to be: faithfully proclaiming Christ to governors, kings, and eventually the heart of the Roman Empire. What appears to be delay is actually divine direction.

## Discussion Questions

1. Felix was moved by Paul's message but delayed responding. In what ways do people today postpone obedience to God "until it's convenient"?
2. How do Paul's themes of righteousness, self-control, and judgment challenge modern ideas of faith that avoid accountability?
3. Why do you think Felix was afraid but unwilling to repent? What fears most often keep people from fully surrendering to Christ?
4. Paul remained faithful during two years of imprisonment with no visible progress. How do you respond when God's timing feels painfully slow?
5. Festus tried to balance justice with political favor. Where are you tempted to compromise truth for approval or comfort?
6. Paul longed for everyone hearing him to become a follower of Christ. How intentional are you about seeing everyday conversations as gospel opportunities?
7. Looking at Acts 24–26 as a whole, how does Paul's example encourage you to trust that God is at work even when circumstances seem unjust or stalled?