

A Story of Non-Conversion

(Acts 24:22-27)

After being falsely accused and arrested by the Jews in Jerusalem, the Apostle Paul is transferred by the Romans to Caesarea. This was due to the discovery of a plan to take his life (Acts 23:12-35). Once arriving in a new and safer location, Paul is given an opportunity to make a case for his innocence before the Roman governor Felix (Acts 24:1-21).

Their initial meeting makes Felix more curious about Paul and the message he preached. He decides to meet with Paul again (this time in private) and Paul seizes the opportunity to preach to him the gospel (Acts 24:22-27). Unfortunately, unlike the many other stories in Acts, this one does not end with a conversion.

I. The Message Paul Preached (Acts 24:25a)

- A. Paul preached about **righteousness**.
 - 1. Men must desire to become righteous before God (Matthew 6:33).
 - 2. God's avenue for making a man righteous is faith in Christ (Romans 1:16-17).
- B. Paul preached about **self control**.
 - 1. Part of being righteous includes living a godly and disciplined life (Galatians 5:22-23).
 - 2. A person cannot live however they want and expect to please God!
- C. Paul preached about the **judgment day**.
 - 1. He told Felix about a day in which every person will give an account of themselves to God (Romans 14:12; Hebrews 9:27; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Matthew 25:46).
 - 2. The resurrection of Jesus guarantees that this day will occur (Acts 17:30-31).

II. Felix's Response (Acts 24:25b)

- A. He was **frightened**.
 - 1. He was pricked by Paul's preaching! Similar to what we find in Acts 2:36-37.
 - 2. He took it seriously and believed it!
- B. He **procrastinated**.
 - 1. He put off committing himself to Christ.
 - 2. Do we have this problem as well? It is a dangerous mentality to have (James 4:13-17).
 - 3. We are never told if Felix ever became a Christian. All the evidence leads us to believe that he did not!
- C. He left **unchanged**.
 - 1. He kept Paul in prison because he was hoping to bribe him (Acts 24:26).
 - 2. Hearing the word of God does us no good if we are not going to be converted and transformed by it (Romans 12:1-2).

Conclusion: How will your **story end**?