

Acts 25

After 2 years, the leaders still have a problem, what's been happening during those two years?

Realize that when you enter spiritual warfare there will be battles
marriage-Finance- sin- distractions- yes even enemies

How do we overcome? *Rev 12:10-11 (NKJV) 10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.*

11 "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb

and by the word of their testimony,

and they did not love their lives to the death.

Your testimony is powerful, no one can dispute it, "I once was blind but now I see"

v.1-3 Festus becomes governor in place of Felix- history says he was a good just ruler, he meets with Jewish leaders

- they inform him of Paul

- they intend to ambush and kill him-*notice no mention of a fast until they do this time*

v.7 they make unprovable complaints

v.9-12 Paul responds by denying any wrongdoing against either Caesar or the Jews

- appeals to Caesar

v.12 Paul's rights as a Roman citizen cannot be denied but now there is a problem because Felix has to send Paul with no charges

v.13 King Agrippa and Bernice

This is king Agrippa, Herod Agrippa II.

It was his great grandfather Herod who had ordered the death of the innocent children at the time of the birth of Christ.

His great uncle Herod had ordered the death of John the Baptist.

His father, Herod Agrippa, had ordered the death of James that we mentioned earlier. This is Herod Agrippa II. His wife was Bernice who was also his sister. She also was a daughter of Herod Agrippa I, she was the sister also to Drusilla who was the wife of Felix.

Bernice had originally been married to her uncle whom she divorced and married a wealthy merchantman and when Herod Agrippa met her in Rome, he enticed her to leave him and to come and live with him.

v.23 set the stage with pomp of Agrippa and Bernice and Paul being led in, but who really is the prisoner, and in chains?

Throughout the Bible, there have been confrontations between those who have the title and those who have the testimony

- Gen.20 Abraham and Abimelech
- Gen. 47 Jacob and Pharoah
- Ex. Moses and Pharoah
- David and Saul
- 1 Kings 12 Elijah and Ahab and Jezebel
- Jesus and Pilate

v.19 is the heart of the issue here- Jesus is either dead or alive

1) there are many today that believe He is dead

- don't accept the good news of the resurrection

2) those who believe that He is dead are living in a dark and hopeless world

A) no hope for the present

- society crumbling- drugs, alcohol, sex, abortion, divided nation
- impending war in the Middle East
- terrorism threats- Iran, Korea
- economy

b) no hope for the future

- “ **we live like hogs and die like dogs**”
- death is the final end- he who dies with most toys wins

C) there is no real justice if this is all that there is

- good people die young
- evil people live long and prosper
- people are born with or develop handicaps and illness
- life just isn't fair

Paul affirms that Jesus is alive

At one time Paul thought He was dead

- Until he met Jesus and talked with Him, meeting and speaking with someone is very good evidence that they are alive
- Paul was transformed
 - o Enemy to friend
 - o Persecutor to proclaimer
 - o Hating Jesus to loving Jesus
 - o From persecuting to being persecuted

2Cor 11:24-28 (NKJV) 24 From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; 26 in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; 27 in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness— 28 besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.

No man would endure those things unless he was convinced that Jesus had risen from the dead

What are the implications if Jesus is alive?

- He is the Son of God, Whom He claimed to be
- He is sent to save us from our sins
- Those who do not believe in Him will perish in their sins and be eternally separated from God
- Those who do believe are forgiven and will live eternally in the glory of His heavenly Kingdom
- Those that believe have a hope, those that don't, don't have a hope

John 8:36 (NKJV)

“Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

Rom 6:22-23 (NKJV)

22 But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Do you have the title or the testimony?