



**Convicted, But Not
Changed!
Woke, But Not
Awake!**
Acts 24:24-27

Observations

- **There is a very interesting story in Acts 24, that I believe has practical application for all of us who love Jesus and want to be saved . Remember Hebrews 12:1-2**
- **The story is also an example of the providence of God in the life of His children (compare Acts 23:11 with Acts 28:16)**
- **To set this up, in Acts 23, the Apostle Paul had to be escorted by a battalion of 470 Roman soldiers to prevent an ambush and an assassination attempt on his life by approximately 40 Jewish leaders; Acts 23:12-15; 23-24**
- **As a result, Paul travelled, without any harm befalling him, to a town known as Caesarea to be tried by the Roman court**

Observations

- **In Acts 24:1, we find that the High Priest of the Jewish faith along with several elders, and a trial lawyer by the name of Tertullus, came down from Jerusalem to present their case against Paul to the Roman government.**
- **The case was presented before a Roman Governor by the name of Felix**
- **In verses 2-8, Tertullus makes some opening remarks outlining the allegations against Paul as a “troublemaker,” the ring leader of riots among Jews all over the world, and a man who has desecrated the Holy Temple in Jerusalem**
- **In verses 10-21, Paul defends himself, stating that he was not a troublemaker, and had witnesses that would gladly verify what he had—and had not—done**

- **In verse 22, Governor Felix, who already had more knowledge about Christianity than he had let on, adjourned the trial, claiming that he would wait for Lysias, the captain who had rescued Paul from the Jewish mob, to come before he would make a decision on the case**
- **Several days later, Governor Felix walks in to hear the trial with his wife Drusilla, whom the Bible specifically says was a Jew, verse 24**
- **Then he sends for Paul, whom he had commanded to be kept under guard with some freedoms not usually given to prisoners, to come to court to present his case; verse 23**
- **Paul, now, has the opportunity in the Roman court presided over by Governor Felix, to plead his case, unhindered**

Notice What Paul Didn't Talk About

- He could have chosen to tone down his message and flatter Felix (butter him up), to help to facilitate his release
- He could have given a defense of some obscure theme of the gospel so as to not offend the Governor of the region before whom he stood (Remember, he had the power to release him, so don't make him mad arguing about Israel's rights)
- Maybe his argument concerning the resurrection of the dead is what Felix thought he would hear (Pharisees and Sadducees always argued about this one)
- He could have lectured Felix on how Judaism differed from Christianity

So, How Did Paul Defend Himself?

He Tailored His Defense to His Audience

- On this occasion, Governor Felix brings his wife, Drusilla, to court with him (of whom the Holy Spirit specifically adds but not as an aside “who was Jewish”), to hear Paul, verse 24

The Holy Spirit Knew Their History!

Felix, history says, began his life in slavery and had cheated and extorted his way up the career ladder to his position

He was even hoping to get a bribe from Paul (quid pro quo), by meeting frequently with him; verse 26 (*a crooked Judge!*)

Drusilla was extremely familiar with Christianity. Her father, Herod, having executed the apostle James, Acts 12; Her great-grandfather murdered innocent babies in his effort to kill Jesus

Her great uncle killed John the Baptist (wife's daughter's wish)

History says that Drusilla was unfaithful to her previous husband, left him (without divorcing him), and married Felix the Governor who was not a Jew, and didn't believe in Judaism

Paul Began His Defense Where Ours Should Begin and End With Jesus Christ

“For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me if I preach not the gospel.” 1 Corinthians 9:16

Paul says that what I preach (the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ), is not because of, “selfish intentions”

He says that he’d rather die than give anyone ammunition to question his motives, Philippians 1:27 (Let your conduct be worthy of the gospel)

He says that he is “*compelled to do it and doomed if he doesn’t*” “*I don’t have anything personal in what I tell you*”

Galatians 2:20, He said that he was , “*crucified with Christ*”

Then He Covers Three Themes for His “Immediate Audience” That Were Appropriate

#1 Righteousness

- **Luke says that he “reasoned” with them (gave him the basis of the principle behind the belief) verse 25**
- **God is righteous and man isn’t. Man tends to bend principles and rules based on the situation (Felix and Drusilla, knew that all too well) (Ex. The rich man who offered 1 million dollars to a married woman for one night of sexual pleasure with her). Felix knew that he wasn’t living right (crooked)**
- **So, with righteousness, Felix was made to understand that he had 2 choices, 1) He could try to please God with his own righteousness, which he couldn’t, Isaiah 64:6 or 2) Clothe himself in the righteousness of Jesus Christ, Galatians 3:26,27**

#2 Temperance (Self Control)

- Here was a couple that was reminded of the fact that they operated without the desire to control their actions
- Paul reminded Felix that his life was out of control, his lifestyle was wrong, he was married to a woman who, history records, already had a husband; and he was a leading official
- Parents when you lead, by virtue of your position in the family, there are certain ways you can't live and lifestyles you can't imitate or condone

Why? You lose your voice (influence) when you do

You lose "the right" to have "the girlfriend experience" at work, when you've got a wife at home!

#3 Judgement to Come

- Felix knew a lot about judging cases but probably never thought of himself as being before a higher Judge than he was one day (he would be the defendant in his own trial).
- Paul taught Felix that where he would spend eternity would be up to another Judge:

“For we all must appear before the judgement seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body (what is due us for the things done while in the body), according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.” 2 Corinthians 5:10

On that day, our Savior, Jesus Christ, will become our Judge

Paul let Felix and Drusilla know that presently, they had No Savior, but would be Judged by the selfish lives they had lived

Upon Paul's Conclusion Felix Trembled!

- Felix came to a point in his mind that Psychiatrists and Psychologists call “Cognitive Dissonance” Romans 7:19-20
- Cognitive Dissonance-When your actions don't agree with your beliefs (willful sin). Felix became “exposed to himself” for the man he really was (extortioner, adulterer) and couldn't control his nerves and so he began to shake visibly, verse 25. His nervousness validated the truth of the gospel message in his life, Hebrews 4:12 “Don't kill the messenger!”
- On the other hand, Drusilla heard the same message, but the Holy Scriptures say nothing about any effect that it had on her
- This woman had “*Heart Trouble,*” and was not convicted by the word of God (unlike the Jews on the day of Pentecost, Acts 2:37, “*pricked in their heart*”) “Woke but not Awake”

So What Happens?

- **Verse 25 says that Felix abruptly adjourns the trial and puts his decision on Paul off until later. That was a BAD MOVE!**
- **That's like flying an airplane, being confronted with a warning light and switching it off, ignoring that there is a problem (or a car warning light).**
- **The Bible doesn't say why he put off his decision, but it could have been the presence of Drusilla. Had she not been there, Felix might have made a different decision**
- **How many people have put off the most important decisions in life because of the influence of a significant other or what their friends might think?**
- **A moment like that never returned to Felix again**

The Essence of the Lesson is This:

***Today, If You Hear His
Voice, Do Not Harden
Your Hearts, Hebrews 3:15***

***God Arranged Your Time To Listen This Morning
You Are Taking the Place of Felix and Drusilla
What Will You Do About It?***

The Plan Of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38