

Story Time - Read the story to the children
Lesson 266: PAUL IS SENT TO FELIX
ACTS 23:23-24:27

Then the commander called two army officers. He said to them, "I need some men to go to Caesarea. Get 200 soldiers ready. Also, get 70 soldiers on horses and 200 men to carry spears. Be ready to leave at nine o'clock tonight. Get some horses for Paul to ride so that he can be taken to Governor Felix safely." The commander wrote a letter that said: From Claudius Lysias. To the Most Honorable Governor Felix. Greetings: Some Jews had taken this man and planned to kill him. But I learned that he is a Roman citizen, so I went with my soldiers and saved him. I wanted to know why they were accusing him. So I brought him before their council meeting. This is what I learned: The Jews said this man did some things that were wrong. But these charges were about their own Jewish laws, and there was nothing worthy of jail or death. I was told that some of the Jews were making a plan to kill him. So I decided to send him to you. I also told those Jews to tell you what they have against him.

The soldiers did what they were told. They got Paul and took him to the city of Antipatris that night. The next day the soldiers on horses went with Paul to Caesarea, but the other soldiers and the spearmen went back to the army building in Jerusalem. The soldiers on horses entered Caesarea, gave the letter to Governor Felix, and then turned Paul over to him. The governor read the letter and asked Paul, "What country are you from?" The governor learned that Paul was from Cilicia. The governor said, "I will hear your case when the Jews who are accusing you come here too." Then the governor gave orders for Paul to be kept in the palace built by Herod. Five days later Ananias, the high priest, went to the city of Caesarea. He brought with him some of the older Jewish leaders and a lawyer named Tertullus. They went to Caesarea to make charges against Paul before the governor. Paul was called into the meeting, and Tertullus began to make his accusations. Tertullus said, "Most Honorable Felix, our people enjoy much peace because of you, and many wrong things in our country are being made right through your wise help. For this we all continue to be very thankful. But I don't want to take any more of your time. So I will say only a few words. Please be patient. This man is a troublemaker. He causes trouble with the Jews everywhere in the world. He is a leader of the Nazarene group. Also, he was trying to make the Temple unclean, but we stopped him. You can decide if all this is true. Ask him some questions yourself." The other Jews

agreed and said it was all true. The governor made a sign for Paul to speak. So Paul answered, "Governor Felix, I know that you have been a judge over this nation for a long time. So I am happy to defend myself before you. I went to worship in Jerusalem only twelve days ago. You can learn for yourself that this is true. These Jews who are accusing me did not find me arguing with anyone at the Temple or making trouble with the people. And I was not making trouble or arguing in the synagogues or any other place in the city. These men cannot prove the things they are saying against me now. "But I will tell you this: I worship the God of our fathers as a follower of the Way, which these Jews say is not the right way, and I believe everything that is taught in the Law of Moses and all that is written in the books of the prophets. I have the same hope in God that these Jews have--the hope that all people, good and bad, will be raised from death. This is why I always try to do what I believe is right before God and before everyone. "I was away from Jerusalem for many years. I went back there to take money to help my people. I also had some gifts to offer at the Temple. I was doing this when some Jews saw me there. I had finished the cleansing ceremony. I had not made any trouble, and no one was gathering around me. But some Jews from Asia were there. They should be here, standing before you. If I have really done anything wrong, they are the ones who should accuse me. They were there! Ask these men here if they found any wrong in me when I stood before the high council meeting in Jerusalem. I did say one thing when I stood before them and shouted, 'You are judging me today because I believe that people will rise from death!'" Felix already understood a lot about the Way. He stopped the trial and said, "When commander Lysias comes here, I will decide what to do with you." Felix told the army officer to keep Paul guarded but to give him some freedom and to let his friends bring whatever he needed. After a few days Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was a Jew. Felix asked for Paul to be brought to him. He listened to Paul talk about believing in Christ Jesus. But Felix became afraid when Paul spoke about things like doing right, self-control, and the judgment that will come in the future. He said, "Go away now. When I have more time, I will call for you." But Felix had another reason for talking with Paul. He hoped Paul would pay him a bribe, so he sent for Paul often and talked with him. But after two years, Porcius Festus became governor. So Felix was no longer governor. But he left Paul in prison to please the Jews.

PAUL IS SENT TO FELIX

(ACTS 23:23-24:27)



"Paul is sent to Felix."
Acts 23:23–24:27

266. PAUL IS SENT TO FELIX

ACTS 23:23-24:27

MEMORY VERSE:

"But watch out for yourselves, for they will deliver you up to councils, and you will be beaten in the synagogues..." **MARK 13:9**

Review Questions

True or False

1. The commander got a horse for Paul to ride on as they took him to go see Felix.
2. The commander also wrote a letter to Felix explaining what had happened, and that Paul was a Roman citizen.
3. After five days Ananias the high priest came down with the elders and a lawyer named Tertullus, and asked that they let Paul go free.
4. Tertullus told Felix that Paul was not a troublemaker at all.
5. Paul said that he was not doing anything wrong in the Temple when they arrested him.

Questions

1. When Felix came with his wife Drusilla to talk to Paul about the Way and Paul started talking about doing right, self-control and judgment that will come in the future, was Felix happy or afraid?
2. When the high priest Ananias and the lawyer Tertullus came and talked to Felix, what did they say to him about Paul?
3. What things did Paul say to Felix about when they arrested him in the Temple? Did he say he did anything wrong?
4. What kind of a citizen was Paul? From what place?
5. Why did Felix keep asking for Paul to come and talk to him?
6. How long did Felix leave Paul in prison before Porcius Festus became the new governor after him?

Lesson 266 Discussion

THINGS THAT DO GOOD, BUT DON'T SEEM LIKE IT AT THE TIME:

Ask the children to name things that seem like they are yucky, not fun, difficult, or hurt, but do a whole lot of good. (Surgery, shots, medicine, studying hard, chores, stitches, etc.

Give them time to talk about all these things they think are not fun, or are hard, or that hurt.. Then have them talk about what good each of these things does in their lives, or other peoples' lives. (you can show the pictures for reference at the end of this lesson).

Explain that there are many things in life that hurt, but that do good. Sometimes God will allow discomfort and insecurity (explain what insecurity means to the younger children- that it's when something seems scary or uncertain) in our lives to work together for His good in our lives. Sometimes God works to protect us in ways that we don't understand; we just have to trust Him!

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving for God's wonderful control of our circumstances even when we do not understand them. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.









