



Title | When Treated Unjustly
Series | The Church That Changed the World
Text | Acts 25:1-27
By | Bob Kerrey
Date | May 19, 2024

Sermon Notes

Acts 25:1 Now three days after Festus had arrived in the province, he went up to Jerusalem from Caesarea. **2** And the chief priests and the principal men of the Jews laid out their case against Paul, and they urged him, **3** asking as a favor against Paul that he summon him to Jerusalem—because they were planning an ambush to kill him on the way. **4** Festus replied that Paul was being kept at Caesarea and that he himself intended to go there shortly. **5** “So,” said he, “let the men of authority among you go down with me, and if there is anything wrong about the man, let them bring charges against him.” **6** After he stayed among them not more than eight or ten days, he went down to Caesarea. And the next day he took his seat on the tribunal and ordered Paul to be brought. **7** When he had arrived, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him, bringing many and serious charges against him that they could not prove. **8** Paul argued in his defense, “Neither against the law of the Jews, nor against the temple, nor against Caesar have I committed any offense.” **9** But Festus, wishing to do the Jews a favor, said to Paul, “Do you wish to go up to Jerusalem and there be tried on these charges before me?” **10** But Paul said, “I am standing before Caesar’s tribunal, where I ought to be tried. To the Jews I have done no wrong, as you yourself know very well. **11** If then I am a wrongdoer and have committed anything for which I deserve to die, I do not seek to escape death. But if there is nothing to their charges against me, no one can give me up to them. I appeal to Caesar.” **12** Then Festus, when he had conferred with his council, answered, “To Caesar you have appealed; to Caesar you shall go.” *ESV*

Big Idea:

Luke 12:11 “And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, **12** for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.” *ESV*

For Reflection and Application:

Monday:

Read and compare Acts 25:1-12 with Luke 23:1-25. What are the parallels?

Tuesday:

Read John 15:20 and 2 Timothy 3:12. What do these verses suggest about what committed Christians can expect? What kind of persecution have you or others faced?

Wednesday:

From Acts 25:1-12, list all the evidence that Paul is being treated unjustly. How would you characterize the tone of Paul's responses?

Thursday:

From Acts 25:1-12, why is Paul's appeal to Caesar the perfect response? What does it accomplish? (See Acts 23:11.) How do you think Paul came up with such a good response? (See Luke 12:11-12.)

Friday:

Following Paul's example from Acts 25:1-12, what should you do when treated unjustly?

Daily Prayer:

Lord, help me to stay attuned to you this day and every day, that I might know, by your Spirit, how to respond when treated unjustly. Amen.

If you would like to have the daily reflection and application emailed to you, scan the QR code or email info@moonvalleybible.org.

