



The Great Adventure *Acts 25-26* - Living in Limbo

Message to Conversation Guide

1. Have you ever felt like you are in a holding pattern - waiting for the next thing in your life? Read and discuss the definition of limbo below. Does it accurately describe your situation at some points in your life?

An uncertain period of awaiting a decision or resolution; an intermediate state or condition. dictionary.com

2. Read the text below and note and discuss the confusion of the Roman officials of what to do with Paul.

Acts 25:13-21

*13 A few days later King Agrippa and Bernice arrived at Caesarea to pay their respects to Festus. 14 Since they were spending many days there, Festus discussed Paul's case with the king. He said: "There is a man here whom Felix left as a prisoner. 15 When I went to Jerusalem, the chief priests and the elders of the Jews brought charges against him and asked that he be condemned. 16 "I told them that it is not the Roman custom to hand over anyone before they have faced their accusers and have had an opportunity to defend themselves against the charges. 17 When they came here with me, I did not delay the case, but convened the court the next day and ordered the man to be brought in. 18 When his accusers got up to speak, they did not charge him with any of the crimes I had expected. 19 Instead, they had some points of dispute with him about their own religion and about a dead man named Jesus who Paul claimed was alive. 20 **I was at a loss how to investigate such matters;** so I asked if he would be willing to go to Jerusalem and stand trial there on these charges. 21 But when Paul made his appeal to be held over for the Emperor's decision, I ordered him held until I could send him to Caesar."NIV*

3. Read the list of limbo situations below and check any that may apply to your life at the present.
 - Unemployed
 - Waiting to have a child

- Single and not dating.
 - Finished preparing for ministry but no ministry opportunities.
 - Medical procedure and waiting for your health to improve.
 - Loss of a loved one.
4. Life is divided into things that we can control and things that we cannot control. It is essential for a believer in Jesus to realize that what we cannot control God is in control of for our good. Read and discuss the verses below.

Isaiah 61:10-11

10 I make known the end from the beginning,
from ancient times, what is still to come.

I say, 'My purpose will stand,
and I will do all that I please.'

11 From the east I summon a bird of prey;
from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my purpose.

What I have said, that I will bring about;
what I have planned, that I will do. NIV

(see also **Isaiah 42:8-9**)

Romans 8:28

28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. 29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. 30 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. NIV

5. Times of limbo often provide us with new and different type of opportunities that we do not realize when we are not in limbo. What type of new opportunities occurred in Paul's life while he was in this time of waiting?

Acts 25:26

6 After spending eight or ten days with them, Festus went down to Caesarea. The next day he convened the court and ordered that Paul be brought before him. NIV

Acts 25:23

23 The next day Agrippa and Bernice came with great pomp and entered the audience room with the high-ranking military officers and the prominent men of the city. At the command of Festus, Paul was brought in. NIV

Acts 9:15

15 But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. NIV (see also **Matthew 10:18, Luke 12:11, Mark 13:9**)

6. It is important that we seek to be productive while we are waiting for the next thing to happen in our life. Discuss the fact that some scholars believe that Paul may have written many of his prison epistles in Caesarea and not Rome.