

Deception of God's Man

1 Now when Festus was come into the province, after three days he ascended from Caesarea to Jerusalem. **2** Then the high priest and the chief of the Jews informed him against Paul, and besought him, **3** And desired favour against him, that he would send for him to Jerusalem, laying wait in the way to kill him. **4** But Festus answered, that Paul should be kept at Caesarea, and that he himself would depart shortly *thither*. **5** Let them therefore, said he, which among you are able, go down with *me*, and accuse this man, if there be any wickedness in him. **6** And when he had tarried among them more than ten days, he went down unto Caesarea; and the next day sitting on the judgment seat commanded Paul to be brought. **7** And when he was come, the Jews which came down from Jerusalem stood round about, and laid many and grievous complaints against Paul, which they could not prove. **8** While he answered for himself, Neither against the law of the Jews, neither against the temple, nor yet against Caesar, have I offended any thing at all. **9** But Festus, willing to do the Jews a pleasure, answered Paul, and said, Wilt thou go up to Jerusalem, and there be judged of these things before me? **10** Then said Paul, I stand at Caesar's judgment seat, where I ought to be judged: to the Jews have I done no wrong, as thou very well knowest. **11** For if I be an offender, or have committed any thing worthy of death, I refuse not to die: but if there be none of these things whereof these accuse me, no man may deliver me unto them. I appeal unto Caesar. **12** Then Festus, when he had conferred with the council, answered, Hast thou appealed unto Caesar? unto Caesar shalt thou go.

Deception and Dishonesty

- Philippians 3:18-19 – **18** (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ: **19** Whose end is destruction, whose God is *their* belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)
- Titus 1:16 – They profess that they know God; but in works they deny *him*, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.
- Matthew 5:11 – *Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.*

Courage and Competence

- Acts 23:11 – And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, *Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.*

Compromise and Cowardice

- John 12:43 – For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

Guarded and Guiltless

- 1 Peter 3:16 – Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

Rejection of God's Son

13 And after certain days king Agrippa and Bernice came unto Caesarea to salute Festus. **14** And when they had been there many days, Festus declared Paul's cause unto the king, saying, There is a certain man left in bonds by Felix: **15** About whom, when I was at Jerusalem, the chief

priests and the elders of the Jews informed *me*, desiring *to have* judgment against him. **16** To whom I answered, It is not the manner of the Romans to deliver any man to die, before that he which is accused have the accusers face to face, and have licence to answer for himself concerning the crime laid against him. **17** Therefore, when they were come hither, without any delay on the morrow I sat on the judgment seat, and commanded the man to be brought forth. **18** Against whom when the accusers stood up, they brought none accusation of such things as I supposed: **19** But had certain questions against him of their own superstition, and of one Jesus, which was dead, whom Paul affirmed to be alive. **20** And because I doubted of such manner of questions, I asked *him* whether he would go to Jerusalem, and there be judged of these matters. **21** But when Paul had appealed to be reserved unto the hearing of Augustus, I commanded him to be kept till I might send him to Caesar.

Impromptu Meeting

- Acts 24:27 – But after two years Porcius Festus came into Felix’ room: and Felix, willing to shew the Jews a pleasure, left Paul bound.

Informative Message

Intentional Misdirection

- 2 Corinthians 4:4 – In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Ordination of God’s Work

22 Then Agrippa said unto Festus, I would also hear the man myself. To morrow, said he, thou shalt hear him. **23** And on the morrow, when Agrippa was come, and Bernice, with great pomp, and was entered into the place of hearing, with the chief captains, and principal men of the city, at Festus’ commandment Paul was brought forth. **24** And Festus said, King Agrippa, and all men which are here present with us, ye see this man, about whom all the multitude of the Jews have dealt with me, both at Jerusalem, and *also* here, crying that he ought not to live any longer. **25** But when I found that he had committed nothing worthy of death, and that he himself hath appealed to Augustus, I have determined to send him. **26** Of whom I have no certain thing to write unto my lord. Wherefore I have brought him forth before you, and specially before thee, O king Agrippa, that, after examination had, I might have somewhat to write. **27** For it seemeth to me unreasonable to send a prisoner, and not withal to signify the crimes *laid* against him.

Focus on Attention

- John 5:44 – *How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?*

Focus on Authenticity

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