

ARRESTED

ACTS 21-25

ARRESTED, PART 5: WAITING ROOMS AND HOLD TIME

There are few things worse than a long line, a waiting room, or being placed on hold. Yet, life often feels like a waiting room or like being stuck “on hold.” What do we do while we wait?

BIG IDEA: You're not waiting, you're on a mission.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What has been your worst “waiting room”/ “on hold” experience? Why?
2. With your Bible or Bible App, read Acts 25:1-10

Three days after Festus arrived in Caesarea to take over his new responsibilities, he left for Jerusalem, where the leading priests and other Jewish leaders met with him and made their accusations against Paul. They asked Festus as a favor to transfer Paul to Jerusalem (planning to ambush and kill him on the way). But Festus replied that Paul was at Caesarea and he himself would be returning there soon. So he said, “Those of you in authority can return with me. If Paul has done anything wrong, you can make your accusations.” About eight or ten days later Festus returned to Caesarea, and on the following day he took his seat in court and ordered that Paul be brought in. When Paul arrived, the Jewish leaders from Jerusalem gathered around and made many serious accusations they couldn’t prove. Paul denied the charges. “I am not guilty of any crime against the Jewish laws or the Temple or the Roman government,” he said. Then Festus, wanting to please the Jews, asked him, “Are you willing to go to Jerusalem and stand trial before me there?” But Paul replied, “No! This is the official Roman court, so I ought to be tried right here. You know very well I am not guilty of harming the Jews. If I have done something worthy of death, I don’t refuse to die. But if I am innocent, no one has a right to turn me over to these men to kill me. I appeal to Caesar!” Festus conferred with his advisers and then replied, “Very well! You have appealed to Caesar, and to Caesar you will go!”

Acts 25:1-12 (NLT)

3. How has Paul’s life during the Arrested series been like a waiting room? What has he been waiting on? How did he act during this period? Why might God have had him wait?
4. How do you tend to respond when you have to wait on things? Do you see waiting as more of a burden or an opportunity?
5. What are some of the things we shouldn’t do while we wait?
6. Are you currently waiting on something in your life? Spend some time discussing the truths Carlo shared about life’s waiting rooms and being on hold. How do they apply to your situation? How could these truths change your perspective and your attitude about your life?
 - Your waiting room may be your destination.
 - All of life is really a waiting room.
 - You’re not waiting, you’re on a mission.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

What are you currently waiting on in your life? How can you apply these truths while you wait this week:

- Look up: Worship and Pray
- Look in: Grow and Practice
- Look around: Mentor and Serve

Commit to trust the process, celebrate the wins along the way, and never give up!