

Acts 25 – 1 November 2020

“Name Him & Claim Him”

Introduction

- *Paul has finished his 3 trips around the known world
- *He has been arrested in Jerusalem and sent by the Romans to Caesarea to awaited trial
- *In chap 24 he gave his defense against the Jews that were beating him, to the Roman Gov Felix
- *Felix was just looking for a bribe, which Paul didn't give him, so Felix left him in jail for next Gov Festus
- *Today in chap 25 – Paul stands before Gov Festus
- *He's been arrested, not b/c he's broken Jewish or Roman law, but b/c he believes the claims of Christ!!!
- *What kind of claims do you live by?
- *See if you don't accept the claims of Christ, you make up false claims of your own to live by.

Today, we'll examine 4 reactions to the claims of Christ

#1 – Jews deny the claims of Christ with Unprovable Claims of their own against Paul (Chap 25:1-8)

Read Vs 1-3

1. Felix has only been governor for 3 days when he goes to Jerusalem b/c he wants good relations.
2. Of all the items the Jews could have brought to the new governor's attention, they bring up Paul.
 - a. Jews are again plotting to kill Paul by trying to have him brought to Jerusalem.
 - b. Jews want Paul gone at any cost

Read Vs 4-7

1. Jews again come to charge Paul w/ unprovable crimes.
2. This is their way of denying the claims of Christ... *discount, deny and destroy the messenger!*

Read Vs 8

1. Paul reminds of his innocence – He would continue saying, ‘it’s b/c of resurrection I’m here’.

#2 – Jews dissuade from the claims of Christ with Unanswerable Claims of their own (Chap 25:9-12)

Read Vs 9-12

1. Paul trusted Roman justice more than Jewish
2. Paul believed if he went to Jerusalem to be judged of the Jews, he would be killed of them.
3. Vs 11 – Paul is ok with receiving justice b/c he knew he'd done nothing wrong.
4. Paul knew he could do nothing to satisfy Jews
 - a. They weren't out for justice, but for blood.
 - b. Jews claims against Paul were unanswerable b/c anything he said would be changed around until he was convicted.
 - c. Jesus already told Paul he's going to Rome.
5. This was the Jewish method of dissuading people from listening to the claims of Christ.
 - a. Destroy Paul's reputation as an evil doer.
 - b. They wanted him shut up (in prison or in death) (Read I Kings 18:17 about Elijah/Ahab)

#3 – Paul disseminates Underestimated Claims of Christ that Felix never receives (Chap 25:13-21)

Read Vs 13

1. King Agrippa & his office had very little power

Read Vs 14-21

1. Festus doesn't understand much of Judaism b/c he's new in town from Rome
2. But he's able to boil down problem between Paul & Jews as to whether Jesus is dead or alive
3. That's where all the claims of Christ hang!
 - a. If He's still dead, nothing He said is true
 - b. If He's alive then He's the God of Heaven!
4. If Jesus isn't risen from the dead, then we're still in our sins.
5. Festus understood this...the heart of the matter is whether Jesus is alive.
 - a. And do you believe it?
6. Problem is: Festus underestimated the claims of Jesus and...never...looked...into...it.

#4 – Felix was distracted from the claims of Christ with Unknown Claims to accuse Paul of (Chap 25:22-27)

Read Vs 22-23

1. What a contrast!
 - a. These people of great earthly power come in with great ceremony and recognition.
 - b. Then Paul, the man of great spiritual power comes in with no fanfare at all.
2. They're so distracted w/ finding some earthly claim against Paul, that they're not thinking about Paul's spiritual claims at all.

Read Vs 24-27

1. Festus examined Paul & found nothing wrong!
2. Worldly thinkers can't see the problem.
3. This is a hearing to find a crime, instead of a crime that needed a hearing.
4. God gives good reasons to believe His claims.
5. Yet the world often struggles to find a good reason to punish us

Conclusion

So we've seen 4 reactions to the claims of Christ

1. **Some deny the claims of Christ with Unprovable Claims of their own against you**
 - a. Some times you'll be slandered with false claims, be ready.
2. **Some dissuade from the claims of Christ with Unanswerable Claims of their own**
 - a. Some times you just need to stay away from those who are tearing down claims of Christ
3. **We disseminate, what is often Underestimated Claims of Christ**
 - a. It's our job to help everyone see the utmost value in the resurrection of Jesus Christ
4. **Some are distracted from the claims of Christ with Unknown Claims against you**
 - a. Some people are just looking to get you in trouble, don't give them a reason.

Believe the claims of Christ by faith (It's not a blind faith)