



What Will You Do?

Introduction: Festus replaces Felix as governor. The Jews quickly approach him to hand Paul over to them for judgment. Festus calls for a hearing and then asks Paul if he would like to be tried in Jerusalem. Paul refuses and appeals to Caesar. He asks King Agrippa to hear Paul's case in order to gain information to write to Caesar. Paul gives his testimony and appeals to the King to believe in Christ.

Text: Acts 25

Discussion:

1. Icebreaker: When have you been invited to go somewhere? How asked you, what was it? Did you go? Why or why not?
2. Why did Felix leave Paul in Prison?
3. Why did Festus ask Paul if he wanted to be tried in Jerusalem?
4. Why did Pilot refuse to release Jesus?
5. What are the common themes of these three men? Why do some people let the fear of men influence their decision on issues of justice and faith?
6. Note how many times Luke makes clear in chapter 5 of Paul's innocence from the lips of the officials.
7. How did King Agrippa respond to Paul's address?
8. Read Luke 18:18-23. Why did this man not respond to Jesus's invitation?
9. What you are unwilling to release reveals your god. Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
10. Read Luke 14:15-24. Why did these men refuse the invitation?
11. Were any of these excuses valid?
12. What excuses do people make for not accepting Jesus as Lord?
13. What excuses do believer's make in not fully following Jesus in every situation?
14. How will you allow your life to conform to the image of Christ?

Think About it:

Powerful men knew that Jesus and Paul were innocent, yet they did not make a decision because of the political pressure of their day. They delayed justice and ruled with their own interest in mind. They did not have the mind and heart for God. How do you live your life? Do you allow your life to be one that honors Christ and stands for that which is right and true? What will you do when the pressure gets placed on you? Will you stand for your faith?

Moving Forward:

Seek to obey Christ in every situation this week. Stand for what is right and never compromise your faith. Ask the Lord to reveal anything in your life that has taken place of your love and devotion to Christ. When the Holy Spirit reveals something that you need to lay down . . . lay it down at the foot of the cross and obey Jesus.