

ACTS STUDY QUESTIONS, WEEK 9

Monday, Acts 24:10-27

1. In verses 5 and 6, the Jews falsely accused Paul of being a troublemaker and of desecrating the Temple. Have you ever had your beliefs misrepresented? How did it make you feel? How did you respond and why?
2. As Paul began his defense before Felix, he listed several points of common ground between his beliefs with those of his accusers. What were they? When sharing the Gospel, how does finding common ground help?
3. As a follower of Christ, why did Paul continue to observe Jewish practices of purity? How did this help his efforts as a missionary?

Tuesday, Acts 25:1-12

1. After two years, Felix was replaced by Governor Festus and Paul was left in prison. If you had spent two years (or more!) sharing the Gospel with someone without a positive response, would you consider that a waste of your time?
2. Why did Paul “appeal to Caesar”? Do you think it showed a lack of faith on Paul’s part?
3. Paul took a stand for his faith that made him unpopular with many people (to say the least!). Reflect on those situations or circumstances in which you feel less willing or comfortable to verbalize your convictions and ask God to give you courage for those times.

Wednesday, Acts 25:13-22

1. Although Bernice (verse 13) was actually Agrippa’s sister, it was rumored that she may have also been his “lover” or wife. Is there a difference in the way we confront sin in a non-Christian and a Christian? (See 1 Cor. 5:12-13)
2. By now, Paul had been in prison (house arrest) for over two years. It is tempting to view this as wasted time. Recall events in your own life that seemed like a “detour,” and reflect on what God showed you about Himself and His ways.
3. Festus clearly felt out of his depth in matters of the belief systems of the Jews and asked Agrippa for help. Reflect on your willingness to admit when you lack wisdom and seek help from others.

Thursday, Acts 25:23 – 26:11

1. Paul asserts that his background and upbringing was well known to his fellow Jews. Reflect on how your own character influences your witness and ask God’s Spirit to show you areas in need of growth.

2. According to Paul, why was he on trial? (See verses 6-8) How does our hope in a future resurrection help us live our lives today?

Friday, Acts 26:12-32

1. What previous people, circumstances, and events in Paul's life prepared him for his own conversion to Christ?
2. In these verses, Paul vividly describes his life before Christ and why he came to believe in Christ? If you are a follower of Christ, what words would you use to contrast your own life before and after you made that decision? What parts of Paul's story speak to you the most?
3. To become a follower of Christ is to be called to serve him in specific places and ways. Paul was called to be a missionary to "Gentiles" in cities throughout the Roman Empire. How has Christ called you to specifically serve him? How would you describe your own "mission field"?
4. What words would you use to describe Paul's story of his call and conversion before Agrippa and Festus? In what ways does it encourage you in your own witness to your faith in Christ?

This week's questions were written by FBCP's Douglas Shenton. Doug and his wife, Becky, joined FBC last fall. Doug is from the East Coast and has served as a pastor and as a stateside cross-cultural missionary. More recently, Doug showed his servant heart when he volunteered in the church's office and went to Tijuana, Mexico, on a mission trip. Please make sure you thank Doug for his efforts in putting these questions together.