



Acts

THE CHURCH IN MOTION

Acts 25 and 26

To Caesar You Shall Go!

Acts 25: 1-12

¹ Now three days after Festus had arrived in the province, he went up to Jerusalem from Caesarea. ² And the chief priests and the principal men of the Jews laid out their case against Paul, and they urged him, ³ asking as a favor against Paul that he summon him to Jerusalem—because they were planning an ambush to kill him on the way. ⁴ Festus replied that Paul was being kept at Caesarea and that he himself intended to go there shortly. ⁵ “So,” said he, “let the men of authority among you go down with me, and if there is anything wrong about the man, let them bring charges against him.”

⁶ After he stayed among them not more than eight or ten days, he went down to Caesarea. And the next day he took his seat on the tribunal and ordered Paul to be brought. ⁷ When he had arrived, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him, bringing many and serious charges against him that they could not prove. ⁸ Paul argued in his defense, "Neither against the law of the Jews, nor against the temple, nor against Caesar have I committed any offense." ⁹ But Festus, wishing to do the Jews a favor, said to Paul, "Do you wish to go up to Jerusalem and there be tried on these charges before me?" ¹⁰ But Paul said, "I am standing before Caesar's tribunal, where I ought to be tried. To the Jews I have done no wrong, as you yourself know very well.

¹¹ If then I am a wrongdoer and have committed anything for which I deserve to die, I do not seek to escape death. But if there is nothing to their charges against me, no one can give me up to them. I appeal to Caesar.” ¹² Then Festus, when he had conferred with his council, answered, “To Caesar you have appealed; to Caesar you shall go.”

2 Questions

1. Why is Paul making this Defense?

2 Questions

1. Why is Paul making this Defense?

- **Paul's defense ensures the Gospel message is reaching both great and small.**

*“Now when some days had passed, Agrippa the king
and Bernice arrived at Caesarea and greeted
Festus.”*

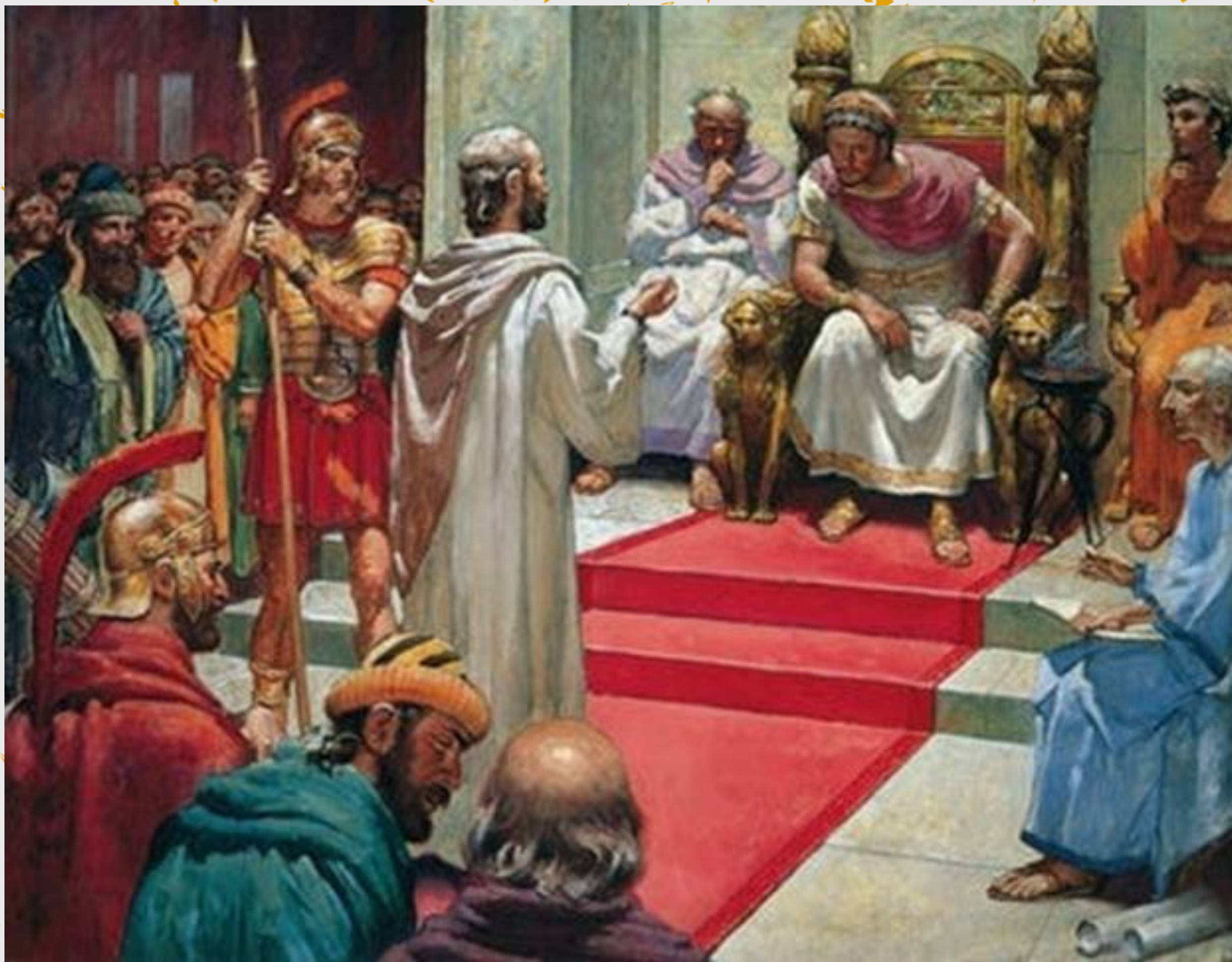
Acts 25:13

*“Now when some days had passed, Agrippa the king
and Bernice arrived at Caesarea and greeted
Festus.”*

Acts 25:13

*“...came with great pomp, and they entered the
audience hall with the military tribunes and the
prominent men of the city”*

Acts 25:23



“Being at a loss how to investigate these questions, I asked whether he wanted to go to Jerusalem and be tried there regarding them.”

Acts 25:20

“Being at a loss how to investigate these questions, I asked whether he wanted to go to Jerusalem and be tried there regarding them.”

Acts 25:20

*“Rather they had certain points of dispute with him about their own religion and about a certain **Jesus, who was dead, but whom Paul asserted to be alive.**”*

Acts 25:19

“And Festus said, “King Agrippa and all who are present with us, you see this man about whom the whole Jewish people petitioned me, both in Jerusalem and here, shouting that he ought not to live any longer. ²⁵ But I found that he had done nothing deserving death. And as he himself appealed to the emperor, I decided to go ahead and send him. ²⁶ But I have nothing definite to write to my lord about him. Therefore I have brought him before you all, and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that, after we have examined him, I may have something to write. ²⁷ For it seems to me unreasonable, in sending a prisoner, not to indicate the charges against him.”

Acts 25:24-27

Roman Rulers are discussing the resurrection of Jesus.

“...so I stand here testifying both to small and great, saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would come to pass: ²³ that the Christ must suffer and that, by being the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles.”

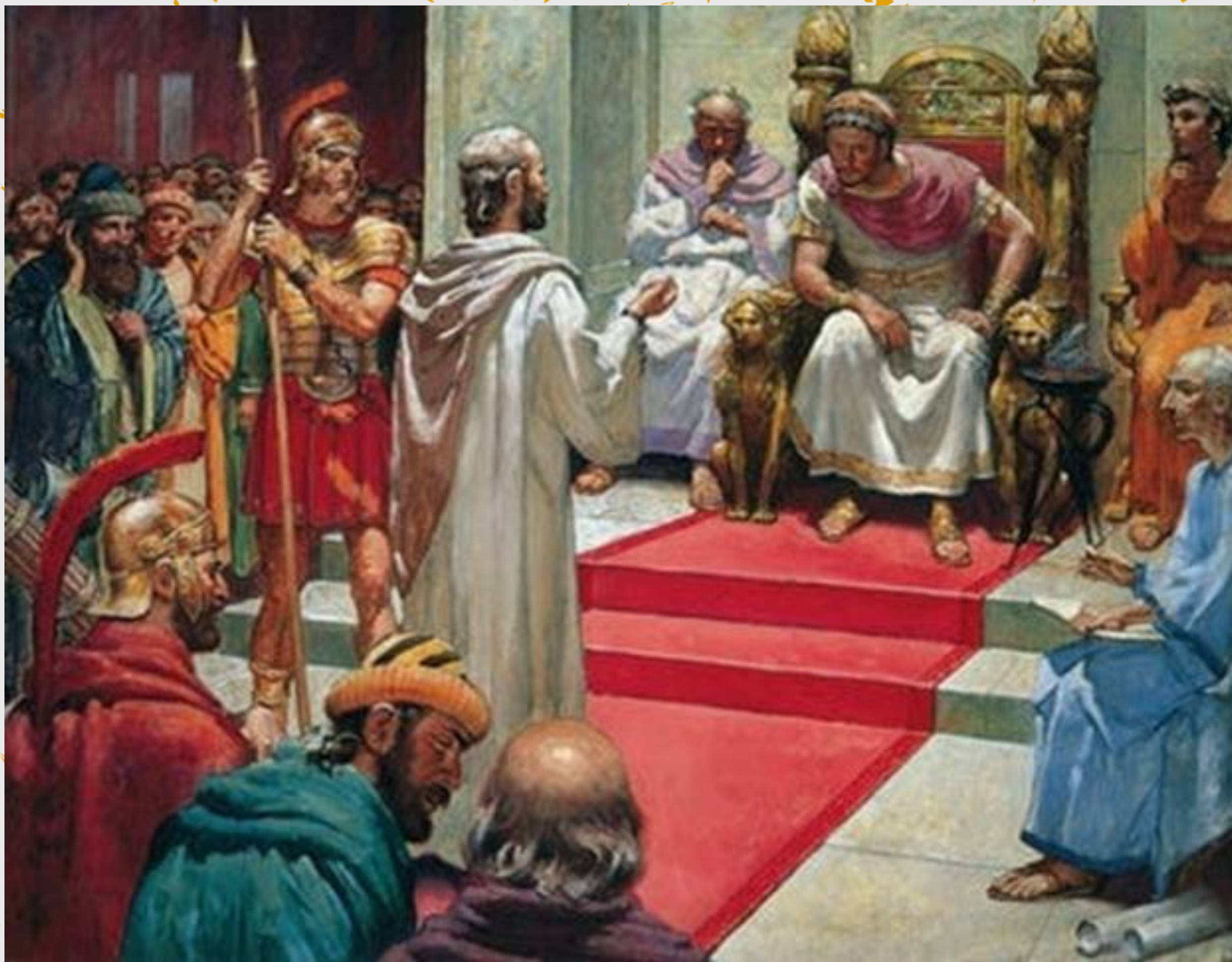
Acts 26:22-23

The Gospel doesn't change, no matter who is in the room.

2 Questions

1. Why is Paul making this Defense?

- Paul's defense ensures the Gospel message is reaching both great and small.
- **God's sovereign plan is on Display.**



“I appeal to Caesar!”

Acts 25:11

“Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome.”

Acts 23:11

"God never hurries. There are no deadlines against which he must work. Only to know this *is* to quiet our spirits and relax our nerves. God's timing is never off. He's not in a rush, and He's not dragging His feet. He's working everything out in His perfect timing. And while we're waiting, we're not wasting time."

- AW Tozer

2 Questions

1. Why is Paul making this Defense?

2. How does Paul make his Defense?

*“When the accusers stood up, they brought no charge
in his case of such evils as I supposed.”*

Acts 25:18

2 Questions

2. How does Paul make his Defense?

- **Paul was facing injustice with true innocence & without Hypocrisy**

2 Questions

2. How does Paul make his Defense?

- Paul was facing injustice with true innocence & without Hypocrisy
- **Paul takes every strategic opportunity tell the gospel**

“Therefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,²⁰ but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance.²¹ For this reason the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me.²² To this day I have had the help that comes from God, and so I stand here testifying both to small and great, saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would come to pass:²³ that the Christ must suffer and that, by being the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles.”

Acts 26:19-23

2 Questions

2. How does Paul make his Defense?

- Paul was facing injustice with true innocence & without Hypocrisy
- Paul takes every strategic opportunity tell the gospel
- **Like Paul, we must not only declare Christ, we must live as Christ!**

Application – our Final Point

Application – our Final Point

When we follow Jesus, our story starts to look like His story.

“If you want to follow Jesus, you had better look good on wood.”
- Berigan



Acts

THE CHURCH IN MOTION