



# Fellowship Groups

## Acts 25:1-27 - “Paul’s Defense”

Speaker: Eric Kalmbach

Sermon Date: September 18, 2016

### LINKS:

This week’s sermon:

<https://markhambiblechapel.app.box.com/v/sermons>

Resources Link:

<https://mbc.churchcenteronline.com/groups/fellowship-groups>

### Introduction (Ice Breaker): “2 Truths & A Lie” (Optional)

Paul was bombarded by lies from throughout the Judean Community leading to his imprisonment. During the course of his captivity Paul had to convince those who God appointed in Leadership of the false accusations against him.

In this exercise, members will try and what is the truth and what is not. Take turns letting each person in your group tell 2 things that are true about themselves and one thing that is not true. For larger groups, choose a handful of people to present.

After each group member shares the 3 facts about themselves, the nearest unrelated person to them has to guess which facts are true and which one is not.

*Example: “1. I am an identical twin, 2. I grew up in a non-Christian home, 3. I have never drank Starbucks Coffee before.” A: #3*

### Previous Message Summary:

Paul’s Defense before Festus (v1-12)

- Paul left in jail by Felix. Festus takes command
- Paul goes before Festus in Caesarea to hear the charges from Jewish leadership
- Paul demands a hearing before Caesar, claiming his innocence
- Festus uses his power to keep Paul in jail and to please the Jewish leadership.

King Herod Agrippa visits Festus in Caesarea (v13-22)

- King Agrippa & Bernice visit Festus to pay tribute to him
- Agrippa shows interest in Paul’s story and arranged to hear from him with Festus

Paul’s Defense to King Agrippa in Royal Court (v23-26)

- Festus admits he hasn’t found Paul guilty of anything deserving death
- Festus wants to honour Paul’s request to stand before Caesar in Rome
- King Agrippa and Jews in attendance assist Festus in writing charges against Paul

### Application Questions:

1. Do you believe that we should pray for our leaders, even if you don’t agree with their actions or motives? What should we pray for them about? Is there any reason why we might not pray for them?
2. In what ways should we use the legal system to help us live our lives as Christians in a world that hates Jesus?
3. In what areas of your life have you experienced a time when the future did not seem certain? How did God help you to wrestle with that and bring you out of it?

4. If someone falsely accused you of something that you didn't do simply because of your faith, how should you as a Christian respond to that? How long should you be expected to endure the persecution?
5. In light of Paul's captivity, what do you think his greatest fear about the future was? What is your greatest fear about the future?
6. If you were forced to appear before a court about your faith, how would you respond? (i.e. anger, elusive behavior, belligerent, etc.)
7. What aspects of Paul's life and persecution can you relate to when your plans don't go as you expected them to?

**Bonus Question** (Optional)

In reference to the baptism of 4 believers on Sunday, what signs should you look for in identifying if a believer is ready to be baptized? Should age or maturity be a criteria? Why?

**Believer's Challenge:**

Choose one personal area of your life that only you and God know where the enemies of the believer (world, Satan & the flesh) may have "imprisoned" you. Pray that God will give you discernment to find "release" from these chains and free you from this sin.