



God and Caesar

Acts 25:1-12

Festus

- Paul gave us a clear picture of how we are to act as Christian citizens of our nation.
- Festus, the new governor of the province, was just and efficient.
- Festus was still a politician.
- The previous governor had kept Paul under arrest for two years.
- There was a group of men who vowed to kill Paul.
- Festus wanted to do a favor for the Jews.
- King Agrippa and Bernice arrived to pay their respects to the new governor.

The Situation

- Festus did not allow the religious leaders to pressure him into a rushed decision.
- The religious leaders were not concerned with what Paul had done, but they were afraid of what he would do.
- The religious leaders wanted to have Paul ambushed and murdered, because they knew he had not done anything wrong.
- Paul had a bigger problem; he was dealing with a politician.
- Festus offered Paul the option of standing trial before him personally in Jerusalem.
- Paul used the system not only for his advantage but also to follow God.

Paul

- Paul saw the hand of God at work and allowed himself to be given over to that hand.
- Paul understood that his next destination was Rome.
- Appealing to Caesar, meant Caesar's court, not necessarily Caesar himself.
- When Paul appealed to Caesar, Festus was troubled as he did not have any real charges to bring against Paul.
- Paul is an example of how we should behave as citizens of Heaven living temporarily as citizens of an earthly country.

How We Should Act

- We owe respect to our government regardless of what we feel or if they deserve it.
- We must treat our government and our leaders with respect.
- We may not always agree with them, but we should always respect them.
- Our mission as a church and as the people of God is to tell our government officials about Jesus.

Conclusion

- The central message of the church needs to be Jesus Christ.
- We need to call people to righteousness.
- Paul didn't just preach Jesus, he lived it!
- If we want to see America be great again, we, the people of God, must follow in Paul's footsteps.
- Our duty and calling is to pray for our nation and our leaders, so God will bless America.