

# A Contrast of Two “Important” Men

## A Contrast of Felix and Paul

Felix	Paul

### I. The Story: The Accusers Arrive

Acts 24:1 Five days later the high priest Ananias went down to Caesarea with some of the elders and a lawyer named Tertullus, and they brought their charges against Paul before the governor. 2 When Paul was called in, Tertullus presented his case before Felix: “We have enjoyed a long period of peace under you, and your foresight has brought about reforms in this nation. 3 Everywhere and in every way, most excellent Felix, we acknowledge this with profound gratitude. 4 But in order not to weary you further, I would request that you be kind enough to hear us briefly.

The Jews – Ananias and Elders – They say \_\_\_\_\_ !

The Lawyer – Tertullus – He \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

### II. The Accusations – There are Three

Acts 24:5 “We have found this man to be a troublemaker, stirring up riots among the Jews all over the world. He is a ringleader of the Nazarene sect 6 and even tried to desecrate the temple; so we seized him. 8 By examining him yourself you will be able to learn the truth about all these charges we are bringing against him.” 9 The Jews joined in the accusation, asserting that these things were true.

-- That Paul stirs up \_\_\_\_\_ all over the \_\_\_\_\_.

-- That Paul is a \_\_\_\_\_ of Christians (Nazarenes)

-- That Paul \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ the temple.

### III. Paul’s Response to These Accusations

Acts 24:10 When the governor motioned for him to speak, Paul replied: “I know that for a number of years you have been a judge over this nation; so I gladly make my defense. 11 You can easily verify that no more than twelve days ago I went up to Jerusalem to worship. 12 My accusers did not find me arguing with anyone at the temple, or stirring up a crowd in the synagogues or anywhere else in the city. 13 And they cannot prove to you the charges they are now making against me. 14 However, I admit that I worship the God of our fathers as a follower of the Way, which they call a sect. I believe everything that agrees with the Law and that is written in the Prophets, 15 and I have the same hope in God as these men, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked. 16 So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man. 17 “After an absence of several years, I came to Jerusalem to bring my people gifts for the poor and to present offerings. 18 I was ceremonially clean when they found me in the temple

courts doing this. There was no crowd with me, nor was I involved in any disturbance. 19 But there are some Jews from the province of Asia, who ought to be here before you and bring charges if they have anything against me. 20 Or these who are here should state what crime they found in me when I stood before the Sanhedrin – 21 unless it was this one thing I shouted as I stood in their presence: ‘It is concerning the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial before you today.’”

-- His response to being “riotous” – (11-13)

-- His response to being a Christian – (14-16)

-- His response to desecrating the temple – (17-21)

The “real” reason I’m here is because of the RESURRECTION!

### IV. Felix’s Decision after Hearing the Evidence

Acts 24:22 Then Felix, who was well acquainted with the Way, adjourned the proceedings. “When Lysias the commander comes,” he said, “I will decide your case.” 23 He ordered the centurion to keep Paul under guard but to give him some freedom and permit his friends to take care of his needs.

We will \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_ (who was never \_\_\_\_\_!)

Paul will have \_\_\_\_\_ here in the \_\_\_\_\_.

### V. Felix’s Further Visits to Prisoner Paul

Acts 24:24 Several days later Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was a Jewess. He sent for Paul and listened to him as he spoke about faith in Christ Jesus. 25 As Paul discoursed on righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and said, “That’s enough for now! You may leave. When I find it convenient, I will send for you.” 26 At the same time he was hoping that Paul would offer him a bribe, so he sent for him frequently and talked with him.

Felix \_\_\_\_\_ Paul who spoke about his \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ Jesus.

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These things \_\_\_\_\_ Felix so he promised to talk with Paul another time. Felix was really hoping for a “\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_!”

### VI. Paul’s Frustration

Acts 24:27 When two years had passed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus, but because Felix wanted to grant a favor to the Jews, he left Paul in prison.

### VII. My Lessons from this Passage

1. One of the greatest downsides of witnessing is \_\_\_\_\_!

2. The story of Felix is the story of loving the \_\_\_\_\_ and missing \_\_\_\_\_ !