

## The Story of Festus

### Paul Has Done Things in Three's

1. Three \_\_\_\_\_ of his life in Acts.
2. Three \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
3. Three \_\_\_\_\_ before three “\_\_\_\_\_.”

#### The Many “Threes”

### The Scriptures

Acts 25:1 Three days after arriving in the province, Festus went up from Caesarea to Jerusalem, 2 where the chief priests and Jewish leaders appeared before him and presented the charges against Paul. 3 They urgently requested Festus, as a favor to them, to have Paul transferred to Jerusalem, for they were preparing an ambush to kill him along the way. 4 Festus answered, “Paul is being held at Caesarea, and I myself am going there soon. 5 Let some of your leaders come with me and press charges against the man there, if he has done anything wrong.” 6 After spending eight or ten days with them, he went down to Caesarea, and the next day he convened the court and ordered that Paul be brought before him. 7 When Paul appeared, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him, bringing many serious charges against him, which they could not prove. 8 Then Paul made his defense: “I have done nothing wrong against the law of the Jews or against the temple or against Caesar.” 9 Festus, wishing to do the Jews a favor, said to Paul, “Are you willing to go up to Jerusalem and stand trial before me there on these charges?” 10 Paul answered: “I am now standing before Caesar’s court, where I ought to be tried. I have not done any wrong to the Jews, as you yourself know very well. 11 If, however, I am guilty of doing anything deserving death, I do not refuse to die. But if the charges brought against me by these Jews are not true, no one has the right to hand me over to them. I appeal to Caesar!” 12 After Festus had conferred with his council, he declared: “You have appealed to Caesar. To Caesar you will go!”

### I. The Importance of Paul the Prisoner

- Festus had ruled for \_\_\_\_\_ days. Who was Festus?
- Paul had been waiting in prison for \_\_\_\_\_.
- The Jewish leaders couldn’t \_\_\_\_\_ him.  
They wanted Paul brought back to Jerusalem to \_\_\_\_\_ him.
- Festus suggested that they \_\_\_\_\_ to Caesarea with \_\_\_\_\_.

### II. The Second Trial

- Many serious \_\_\_\_\_ were made that could not be \_\_\_\_\_.
- Paul referred to the \_\_\_\_\_ earlier charges and said again that he was \_\_\_\_\_. (*charges about the Law, the Temple and Caesar*)
- Festus suggested that Paul be taken \_\_\_\_\_ to Jerusalem to be tried from a \_\_\_\_\_ court.

### III. The Appeal

- Paul knew the \_\_\_\_\_ in returning to Jerusalem.
- He \_\_\_\_\_ he was being tried in the \_\_\_\_\_ place.  
*Acts 25:10 Paul answered: “I am now standing before Caesar’s court, where I ought to be tried. I have not done any wrong to the Jews, as you yourself know very well.*
- He \_\_\_\_\_ to Caesar which is every citizen’s \_\_\_\_\_.
- This request cannot be \_\_\_\_\_; supersedes any \_\_\_\_\_.

### The “Downsides” of Defending Our Faith

1. Last week we learned that a common frustration in sharing our faith is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. In today’s text, we see the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Paul was disappointed in “the \_\_\_\_\_.”
  - Paul was disappointed in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Paul was disappointed in \_\_\_\_\_.

### Practical Lessons from this Passage

1. We see the bondage of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.  
*John 8:34 Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.*
2. We see that when we live a \_\_\_\_\_ life, there are no accusations that our enemies can \_\_\_\_\_ against us.  
*1Pet. 2:12 Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.*
3. We see the \_\_\_\_\_ of God in the “\_\_\_\_\_” and \_\_\_\_\_ events of life.  
*Phil. 1:12 Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel.*
4. We see . . .