

Opportunity Knocks | Small Group Questions | Week of 8/21

Acts 24:1–25:12

Last week: Paul was arrested by Commander Lysias, brought to trial before the Sanhedrin, visited by the Lord in jail, escaped an ambush, and then brought by 470 soldiers to Governor Felix in Caesarea. We learned that Jesus will not necessarily spare us from the trials of life, but will see us through them. We also learned that in tough times and with God's help we can take heart and stand strong.

1. What is the most effective incentive someone could use to persuade you to do a favor for them?
2. Who do you most identify with in the passage and how? (Paul, Ananias & elders, Tertullus, Felix, Drusilla, Festus)
3. In our passage, we now see Paul in Caesarea as a prisoner of Governor Felix. Can you share an experience when you endured tough times? How did you make it through?
4. God had told Paul that he would take the gospel to Rome (Acts 23:11), and yet Paul remained in jail for over two years. When in your life have you had to wait for God to answer your prayers?
5. Waiting can be very hard to do. What can waiting on God's help accomplish in us?

6. Paul was asked to speak to Felix many times during his imprisonment. In Acts 24:24-25, Felix was listening to Paul but became afraid and sent him away, choosing to put off or ignore the truth about God's word and its life-changing power. How do worldly pressures affect spiritual decisions? Give examples.
7. Felix knew the right thing to do and did not do it. He postponed making a decision for Christ. What is the danger of postponing a decision for Christ? Do we have an unlimited number of opportunities to come to Christ?
8. How do you explain the fierce determination of the Jews to kill Paul? (See 25:3; Romans 10:2.)
9. History tells us that Felix was recalled to Rome and removed from power for his disturbances and irregularities in his rule. How do you think Felix's reign would have changed if he listened to Paul and became a Christian?
10. In this passage we see Paul enduring through his imprisonment. What can we learn from this and apply to our life?