

NOTE: Festus, the new governor, favors the Jewish leaders again and again, but still manages to maintain his authority. Paul, to avoid his death, claims his rights as a Roman citizen, which puts Festus in a quandary. Festus seeks help from King Agrippa, the military tribunes, and the prominent men of Caesarea.

1. Festus succeeded Felix as governor of Caesarea. How did Festus try to establish favor with the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem? (Acts 25:1)
2. What was the Jews intention in wanting Paul to be sent back to Jerusalem? (Acts 25:3)
3. What was Festus' response to the Elders request to send Paul back to Jerusalem? (Acts 25:5)
4. According to Jewish law, what was necessary to convict a person of a serious offense? (Deut 19:15-19; Daniel 13:44-63)
5. Paul wanted to be tried before Caesar's tribunal. What were two customs of the Romans before a person was sentenced? (Acts 25:16)
6. After hearing testimony against Paul and by Paul, what did Festus determine were the charges against Paul? (Acts 25:18-19, 25)

Note: Festus seeks counsel from King Agrippa, who is knowledgeable about Jewish customs and controversies. At this point, he has nothing definite to charge Paul, and he must specify some cause to give Caesar if he is to send him to Rome. This is just one of the strong parallels to Jesus' trial and conviction. Pilate sought Herod Antipas' opinion regarding Jesus to remove the final decision from being his. (Luke 23:6-12) However, here Festus and Agrippa find no fault, and Paul is sent to Rome. In Jesus' case, Pilate accedes to political pressure and crucifies him.

7. While Paul was still a prisoner in Caesarea, who came to welcome Festus as the new governor, and why did he want to see Paul? (Acts 25:13-16, 22; see also handout *Five Herods and Three James*)
8. How does Festus describe the behavior of the audience at Paul's second court appearance in Caesarea? (Acts 25:23-26)
9. What did Festus think would be accomplished by questioning Paul again in front of Herod Agrippa? (Acts 25:26-27)
10. What does Festus need before he can send Paul and his case to Rome? (Acts 25:26-27)