



Daily Reflections

May 18, 2018

Scripture

Acts 25: 13-21

King Agrippa and Bernice arrived in Caesarea on a visit to Festus.

Since they spent several days there,

Festus referred Paul's case to the king, saying,

"There is a man here left in custody by Felix.

When I was in Jerusalem the chief priests and the elders of the Jews brought charges against him and demanded his condemnation.

I answered them that it was not Roman practice

to hand over an accused person before he has faced his accusers and had the opportunity to defend himself against their charge.

So when they came together here, I made no delay;

the next day I took my seat on the tribunal

and ordered the man to be brought in.

His accusers stood around him,

but did not charge him with any of the crimes I suspected.

Instead they had some issues with him about their own religion and about a certain Jesus who had died

but who Paul claimed was alive.

Since I was at a loss how to investigate this controversy,

I asked if he were willing to go to Jerusalem

and there stand trial on these charges.

And when Paul appealed that he be held in custody

for the Emperor's decision,

I ordered him held until I could send him to Caesar."

Our Scripture Reflection

Replace the name Agrippa with Herod and Festus with Pilate and it is easy to see the parallel between Paul in Acts and his Lord Jesus in Luke. As goes the Master, so goes the disciple. And with regard to the commission by Jesus to His Apostles to be "witnesses to the ends of the earth"...well, irony of ironies...that will happen because of a legal technicality. Paul, just before standing trial in Jerusalem which would have led to his death there, asks for his rights as a Roman citizen, which he is, to have his case heard by Caesar. And where does Caesar reside???? ROME, the then known "ends of the earth"! It's all a part of His Holy Plan.

Food for your Journey

God in his providence has a thousand keys to open a thousand different doors in order to deliver his own, no matter how desperate the situation my have become. May we be faithful to do our part, which is simply to suffer for him, and to place Christ's part on him and then leave it there.

—George MacDonald.

In every situation, God is doing a thousand things that we cannot see and do not know.

—John Piper.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, At times when life gets difficult I become anxious and lose my ability to trust You in all things. Help me, Lord, to remember clearly the many times in the past when You rescued me. Removes my doubts and replace them with confidence and courage. Amen