



ACTS

Of All the Apostles

You Will Be My Witnesses:

Running the Race

Lesson 44



Before Governor Felix

Acts 24:1-27

Supplemental Scripture

Hebrews 12:1-3
Isaiah 40:28-31

Memory Verse

His glorious power will
make you patient and
strong enough to endure
anything, and you will be
truly happy.
Colossians 1:11 (CEV)

Lesson Goals

Understand that Paul was
committed to Christ

Understand that Paul had
begun the race of faith
and wanted to finish it
well

Understand that Felix
knew all about the “Way
of Jesus”

Understand that Felix
wouldn’t commit to Christ

NOTE: Familiarize yourself with this story. Study the supplemental Scripture and make notes on, but do NOT read from, these pages. To reinforce that these ideas are not your own, hold your Bible as you tell the story.

Have you ever thought about running a marathon? (Or if you are not even a runner, have you thought about beginning to run?) Did you do anything to make it happen? Did you begin training? Did you stick with it? Let’s see what we can learn about commitment from our lesson.

The last that we learned about Paul was that he had been moved overnight from Jerusalem to Caesarea. He was awaiting a trial before Governor Felix. The high priest, Ananias, and some elders arrived five days later. They arrived with Tertullus, their lawyer, to speak for them. They came to accuse Paul. Tertullus spoke to Felix and flattered him. He told how wonderful they thought he was and how wise a leader he was. And then he said, “I don’t want to bother you. But would you be kind enough to listen to us for a short time?” (Acts 24:4 NIV) Then Tertullus accused Paul of being a troublemaker and stirring up trouble with the Jews “all over the world!” In truth it was the other way around. Tertullus also informed Felix that they had arrested Paul and were going to try him in their court, but Lysias, the Roman commanding officer who had saved Paul’s life, had come and taken Paul from them by force. This was partial truth, but mostly a lie. And then Tertullus continued by accusing Paul of being “a leader of those who follow Jesus of Nazareth.” (Acts 24:5 NIV) This, of course, was completely true. The Jews who had also come to Caesarea agreed with Tertullus.

Then it was Paul’s turn. “The governor motioned for Paul to speak.” (Acts 24:10 NIV) There was no flattery here. Paul simply expressed his gratitude over pleading his case before someone with so much experience. Then, Paul recounted what had happened almost two weeks before. Paul assured Felix that the charges made against him could not be proven, although “it is true that I worship the God of our people [and] I am a follower of the Way of Jesus.” (Acts 24:14 NIV) Paul explained that, because he believed all that the Bible says, he always tried to do what was right. He assured Governor Felix again that he had not stirred up any trouble. He said, “Let the Jews who are here tell you what crime I am guilty of. After all, I was put on

Application

At the beginning of the lesson I asked you if you have you ever thought about running a marathon or just beginning a race? Did you do anything to make it happen? Did you begin training? Did you stick with it? What is the difference between those who make something happen by starting and staying with it and those who just think about doing something? It's commitment.

Paul was committed to God, no matter the circumstances. Paul wanted to "run the race" and finish it well. Governor Felix, on the other hand, knew a lot about God but, for whatever reason, wasn't willing to commit his life to God.

Who are you the most like? Will you make a commitment to be more like Paul, to begin the race by following Jesus and to finish well? If you have more questions, let's talk.

trial by the Sanhedrin." (Acts 24:20 NIV) Paul said, "Maybe they blame me for shouting that people will rise from the dead."

Governor Felix knew all about this "Way of Jesus" that Paul spoke about. He put off the trial with the excuse that he would wait for Claudius Lysias, the Roman officer, to come. "Then I will decide your case," he told Paul. (Acts 24:22 NIV) Paul was placed under guard but given some freedom while he waited.

Several days later Felix returned with his wife, Drusilla. Lysias hadn't arrived, but Felix came to listen to Paul talk about faith in Jesus Christ. "Paul talked about how to live right. He talked about how people should control themselves. He also talked about the time when God will judge everyone." (Acts 24:25 NIV) Then the governor became afraid. He had lots of understanding and information about the Way of Jesus, but he wasn't willing to accept that Jesus is the only way to God. He wasn't willing to commit his life to God. Instead he kept calling for Paul and listening to him hoping that Paul would offer him money to be freed. Paul never did.

Rather than please God, Felix chose to please the Jews instead. He left Paul in prison indefinitely. And two years later, when Festus succeeded Felix as governor, Paul was still imprisoned, under guard, being faithful to God.

Review

1. How long did Paul wait to begin his trial before Governor Felix? (He waited five days.)
2. What charges were brought against Paul? (He was accused of stirring up trouble among the Jews all over the world.)
3. Were the charges true? (No. It was the other way around.)
4. Did Governor Felix free Paul? (No.)
5. Why not? (Felix wanted to make the Jews happy. He left Paul in jail for 2 years.)

Next Week
Festus and Agrippa
Acts 25:1-26:32

Preschool Lesson

Last week we learned that Paul was moved overnight from Jerusalem to Caesarea. He was waiting for his trial before Governor Felix. Five days later some men arrived from Jerusalem. They came to accuse Paul. One of them spoke to Felix and said lots of wonderful things about him. Then he accused Paul of being a troublemaker and stirring up trouble with the Jews “all over the world!” He told Felix that they had arrested Paul and were going to try him in their court, but the Roman commanding officer who had saved Paul’s life had come and taken Paul from them by force, even though it didn’t really happen that way.

Then it was Paul’s turn. The governor let Paul speak. Paul didn’t say a lot of wonderful things about the governor, he just said he was glad to have someone with so much experience hearing his case. Then, Paul told the governor what had happened twelve days before. (Count to twelve.) Paul told Felix that the charges made against him were not true. Paul explained that, because he believed the Bible, he always tried to do what was right. He told Governor Felix again that he had not stirred up any trouble. He said, “Let the Jews who are here tell you what crime I am guilty of. After all, I was put on trial by the Sanhedrin.” (Acts 24:20 NIV) Paul said, “Maybe they blame me for shouting that people will rise from the dead.”

Governor Felix knew all about this “Way of Jesus” that Paul spoke about. He put off the trial, though and made an excuse about waiting for Claudius Lysias, the Roman officer, to come. “Then I will decide your case,” he told Paul. (Acts 24:22 NIV) Paul was guarded, but given some freedom while he waited.

Several days later Felix came back with his wife, Drusilla. The Roman officer hadn’t arrived, but Felix came to listen to Paul talk about believing in Jesus. Paul explained many things, but the governor became afraid. He understood a lot, but he wasn’t willing to accept that Jesus is the only way to God. He wasn’t willing to commit his life to God. Instead he kept calling for Paul and listening to him hoping that Paul would offer him money to be freed. Paul never did.

Instead of pleasing God, Felix chose to please the Jews instead. He left Paul in prison for two years, until the next governor was chosen. His name was Festus. Paul was still imprisoned, but he trusted God.

Activities

Memory Verse Activity - Run a relay race with hurdles and obstacles while practicing the memory verse.

Sing “I Will Run the Race,” and “Every Move I Make.”

Act out the lesson.

Make “Old World Scrolls” from parchment paper. Stain the paper with shoe polish or tea. Roll the ends around sticks or small dowel rods. When dry, print the verse on the scroll.

As you continue memorizing Hebrews 12:1-3, talk about the hurdles and obstacles along the way. Compare these verses with the memory verse. Discuss the contrast between Paul and Felix in their approach to Christ. Talk about the difference between running the race and sitting the stands.



His glorious power will make
you patient and strong enough
to endure anything,
and you will be truly happy.

Colossians 1:11

Racing Riddles



Use a mirror or simply copy each line backwards, from right to left, in the spaces below.

r e w o p s u o i r o l g s i H

u o y e k a m l l i w

h g u o n e g n o r t s d n a t n e i t a p

, g n i h t y n a e r u d n e o t

. y p p a h y l u r t e b l l i w u o y d n a

1 1 : 1 s n a i s s o l o C

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Racing Riddles



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r e w o p s u o i r o l g s i H

u o y e k a m l l i w

h g u o n e g n o r t s d n a t n e i t a p

, g n i h t y n a e r u d n e o t

. y p p a h y l u r t e b l l i w u o y d n a

1 1 : 1 s n a i s s o l o C

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Word Search

o e s s r a h p r i p h g i h
r r t a n s t o k i l l o x e
t s e i r p h g i h a a i i r
h o r k r a e d n e i e t l o
s u t y a r e l n h r t c e d
d a u l t m r s s u t s e f s
u h l s w i e n a a n u t r e
a p u y o h s l r r o l o o p
l a o i y s u m b l s l n n s
c w w d e u r t n u d u t r e
t r a u a e c t h a o t r e r
e i s a r h i g h p r r i v h
t x i l s f r o n r e e t o t
e i e c c p a f i l h t g g i
u n t r u l s n r e k a m e l

Paul

Governor Felix

Tertullus

high priest

on trial

trouble maker

untrue

two years

Festus

Word Search

o e s s r a h p r i p h g i h
r r t a n s t o k i l l o x e
t s e i r p h g i h a a i i r
h o r k r a e d n e i e t l o
s u t y a r e l n h r t c e d
d a u l t m r s s u t s e f s
u h l s w i e n a a n u t r e
a p u y o h s l r r o l o o p
l a o i y s u m b l s l n n s
c w w d e u r t n u d u t r e
t r a u a e c t h a o t r e r
e i s a r h i g h p r r i v h
t x i l s f r o n r e e t o t
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