

# “WHEN I FIND TIME I WILL CALL YOU”

Acts 24:22-27

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## INTRODUCTION

What are some of the excuses that people refuse to accept the Gospel?

“This is not the time” or “I don’t have time” are very common excuses.

Unfortunately for most, that time never comes.

Look at what Felix had going for him:

- He had a “more accurate” knowledge about the Way—likely contact with numerous believers who lived in Caesarea, such as Philip, Cornelius, etc.
- He had the leading Christian evangelist staying in his building as a prisoner.
- Paul made a passionate attempt to share the truth of the Gospel with him.
- He had frequent conversations with Paul.

**Yet, as far as we know, he was never saved!**

So it is with people in our culture—so many opportunities, and people sin away the “day of grace” by neglect!

**Felix was more interested in money and in his career than he was his soul!**

YOU MUST TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITIES GIVEN YOU BY THE LORD—don’t wait until tomorrow!

Before we examine the text in more detail, let us see some principles we have learned from chapter 24:

- 1) Flattery is a serious vice (v. 2); Pr. 26:2: “A flattering mouth works ruin.” Ps. 12:3—“The Lord shall cut off all flattering lips.”
- 2) It is common for believers to experience slander and misrepresentation (v. 5); Paul explains that he was commonly “reviled, persecuted, and defamed for the cause of Christ (I Cor. 4:11-13).
- 3) Paul’s common focus in life was to worship God—so should ours (v. 11). So Jesus commanded Satan (Mt. 4:10) and so will all creation someday (Rev. 5:13-14).
- 4) Paul believed and followed the whole Scriptures, believing that all were inspired (v. 14; II Tim. 3:16).
- 5) All men face resurrection and judgment (15); “life” will be to some, and “shame” to others (Dan. 12:2-3).
- 6) We must minister to God’s servants (23); Paul commended churches that did so (II Cor. 8:4-5).
- 7) Evangelistic messages should include “righteousness,” “self-control,” and coming “judgment” (25); so the Spirit convicts men (Jn. 16:8). Believers were commanded to preach the “whole message of this life” (5:20); that included the coming judgment (10:42).
- 8) There is great danger in putting off a decision for Christ (v. 25). Cf. the crowd at the Areopagus in Athens (17:32).

The last point brings us back to our current passage.

- I. POSTPONEMENT OF THE CASE (22)
  - A. Hypocrisy—he did not need to wait for Lysias, for he had already given his verdict.
  - B. Felix had no desire to antagonize the Jews.

- C. Felix had no desire to condemn Paul—Roman citizen.
  - D. Felix well knew that Christians were not rabble rousers—he had a “more exact” or “accurate” picture of the movement known as “the Way.”
- II. KEEPING THE PRISONER IN CUSTODY (23)
- A. Paul would have chains by which he was bound to soldiers.
  - B. He would have more *indulgence* or *lighter restrictions*—including better food, lodging arrangements, and access to his friends and acquaintances—who would minister to him.
- III. GIVING THE PRISONER AN AUDIENCE (24-25)
- A. Drusilla—his Jewess “wife”—a teenage bride stolen from another man, a king of Edessa. His third bride.
  - B. Paul spoke about “faith in Christ Jesus”
    1. **Righteousness**
    2. **Self-Control**
    3. **Coming Judgment**
  - C. Fearful Response
    1. Go away for now.
    2. I will call you again when I have time.
- IV. Manipulating the Prisoner for Personal Gain (26-27)
- A. Hoping for a bribe (even though against Roman law)
  - B. Hearing Paul frequently—talking with him; “*conversing*” .
  - C. Leaving Paul imprisoned—in a state of being bound.
    - Wished to favor the Jews.
    - He was recalled due to a poorly handled riot in Caesarea.
  - D. Succeeded by Porcius Festus.

## CONCLUSION

How many things have you said that you will do “when I find time”?

Things that are very important must be done NOW—not when we find time.

Generally we never find time to do the really important things of life; we must make the time!

**Especially we must make the time to trust Christ and live our lives for him.**

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