

Recap of 8/14/22 message by Joe Ricchuiti – Acts 24:17-25:11

1. Paul's great desire was to minister in Rome. In fact, God had promised him that he would, yet because of Felix's greed and indecision, Paul finds himself imprisoned for two years in Caesarea.

- "Though God had promised that Paul would preach the gospel in Rome (Acts 23:11), the great apostle had to endure more than two years of Felix's refusal to decide his fate. In addition to this imprisonment Paul was subjected to other long stretches of time during which he could do little but trust God and wait for Him to act.... Few things test our patience and faith like being forced to wait—which perhaps explains why our sovereign God often puts us in situations where we have no other choice. He wants us to learn to put our faith and confidence in Him. (The One Year Study Bible NLT)

- "Those two years that Paul languished in prison are silent years in the life of Paul. Perhaps he chafed under it all. We don't know. We do know that the hand of God was manifested in all this, and His purposes were carried out. How comforting this can be for us when our activity seemingly comes to a standstill." (McGee)

2. Wiersbe cites four foolish attitudes of Felix, which are unfortunately repeated in the lives of unbelievers to this day:

-He had a foolish attitude toward God's Word. He thought he could take it or leave it.

-He had a foolish attitude toward his sins. He knew he was a sinner but refused to do anything about it.

-He had a foolish attitude towards God's grace, presuming on God's patience.

-He foolishly procrastinated; Proverbs 27:1; James 4:14)

3. When we feel overwhelmed by life's circumstances, despite our best efforts to serve the Lord, to pray, to grow. We can feel overwhelmed by life's circumstances with a sense that "everything is against us." At those times, we must:

-remember the biblical examples of others who felt that way (Abraham, Moses, Jacob, Genesis 42:36)

-look for God in our circumstances- don't discount Him or distrust Him

-keep doing what's right (live responsibly)

-keep growing in our witness, bible study, prayer, and Christian character

-be patient

-recognize that God's way is best – "We may not know what the future holds but we know the One Who holds the future."