

[Lessons from Felix]

Acts 24:22-27

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[Lessons from Felix]

Will we learn them?

Gospel is universal ... All need it
 Gospel is rational ... Reason with it
 Courageously speak what people need
 Truth should terrify the lost
 Do not delay ... Obey now!

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[Gospel is Universal, All Need It]

Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:5;
 Colossians 1:23

The audience of Felix and Drusilla

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[The Gospel is for All]

For both Jew and Gentile, *Romans 1:16*

Felix and Drusilla:
 Felix – a man, a Greek, a slave, a Governor, an adulterer
 Drusilla – a woman, a Jewess, a Princess, a Queen, an adulteress
 Paul's audience – a Greek, a Jew, a slave, a ruler (Governor), Royalty

[Gospel is for All – All Need It]

Felix and Drusilla needed it, *Acts 24:24*

“With every kind of cruelty & lust, he exercised the authority of a king with the temper of a slave.”
 (Tacitus)
An Adulteress

Everybody Needs It
 All have sinned - *Romans 3:23*
 All to be judged - *Acts 17:30*;
2 Corinthians 5:10


[Gospel is Rational – Reason With It]

Acts 24:25

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The gospel is rational


Words of truth and reason,
Acts 26:24-26
 Not devised by man, *Isaiah 55:8-9 Galatians 1:12*
 Wisdom and power of God,
1 Corinthians 1:18-25



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Must reason from the gospel

To persuade sinners, *Acts 24:25; 2 Corinthians 5:11*
 From the scriptures,
Acts 17:2-3 not our wisdom
Acts 26: 17-18



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GOSPEL PREACHING

The nature of God, his mercy, justice
 God's eternal purpose Sin and its problem
 Living in darkness Light – Fruit of the Spirit
 Christ the solution
 How to obtain the solution, urgency of it
 Walking in the light, sanctification
 The inheritance, judgement, punishment

Courageously Speak What People Need

Acts 28:31

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Address needs of audience

Seutonius and Tacitus (Roman Historians) Also Mention Felix
 "Claudius was equally fond of Felix, giving him the command of cohorts and of troops of horse, as well as of the province of Judaea; and he became the husband of three queens."
 Seutonius – Lives of the Twelve Caesars – Claudius 28

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Address needs of audience

"Not equally moderate was his brother, surnamed Felix, who had for some time been governor of Judaea, and thought that he could do any evil act with impunity, backed up as he was by such power."
 Tacitus Annals – Book 12

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Address needs of audience

The hearer, Felix, one who might have executed Paul

Yet
Paul had the COURAGE to speak, *Ephesians 6:19-20*
Utterance and boldness

And he preached faith in Christ Jesus
Paul preached the gospel, what they needed to hear, not what they wanted to hear *1 Corinthians 9:16*
2 Timothy 4:2
All of us, *Galatians 6:10*

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Address needs of audience

Righteousness,
The condition or state of being accepted or approved by God

Felix and Drusilla were in sin, *Romans 3:23*

Spoke of faith in Christ in order to obtain righteousness, *Romans 3:21-22*
Could you imagine Paul NOT telling them HOW to become righteous!

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Address needs of audience

Expose Sin, *Ephesians 5:11*

Self-control, *Adultery, Cruelty, Lust*
"The virtue of one who masters his desires and passions, esp. his sensual appetites." (Thayer, 167)
We need self-control to do right thing, *2 Peter 1:6; (James 4:17); 1 Corinthians 9:25*
Repentance applied (*Acts 26:20*)

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Address needs of audience

Consequences of Sin

Judgment to come, *Acts 17:30-31*
We also face that day, *Romans 14:12*
Fearful thing to be unprepared, *Hebrews 10:31*

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Truth Should Terrify The Lost

2 Thessalonians 1:7-8

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God's truth terrifies sinners

A point of decision that has eternal results, *Acts 24:25*
"Thrown into fear" (Thayer, 209)
Fear leading to obedience, *Acts 10:35*
Fear leading to denial and rejection of truth ... lost, *John 3:19-21*

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Do Not Delay ... Obey Now

2 Corinthians 6:2

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Do Not Delay

We do not know what tomorrow will bring, James 4:14

Felix – Acts 24:26-27, still with Drusilla, called to Rome to answer to Nero, divorces Drusilla, marries a fourth time, therefore doubtful he obeyed the gospel, do not know his fate after seeing Nero.

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Do Not Delay

Drusilla – Probably had not obeyed the Gospel by the end of two years. Died in the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 AD, at the approximate age of 37 to 40

We do not know whether either one had another opportunity to obey the Gospel

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