



**Reasoning
with Felix**

Acts 24:22-27

Background

- Paul has completed his 3rd journey and been arrested in Jerusalem. Because of threats to his life, he is transported to Caesarea where he is placed under the care of Felix, the procurator of that region.
- **Acts 24:1-21** records the Jews accusing Paul and he defending himself, noting that their charges were baseless

Background

- Felix chooses to keep Paul until Lysias (the commander in Jerusalem) comes down (**24:22**). We do not read of that ever happening. (**24:23-24**). Paul was given “liberty” which implies he was not viewed as a flight risk, or guilty of serious crime, etc.

Background

- Concerning Felix:
According to Tacitus and Josephus, he arose from slave to procurator of Judea (AD ~52-60) by emperor Claudius.
He was known as being harsh and licentious. He was married 3 times, with Drusilla being his 3rd (and unscriptural) wife.

Background

- Paul is given occasions to speak with Felix.
Our text (**Acts 24:22-27**) records one such occasion.
- Paul “reasons” from scripture concerning “faith in Christ” (**24-25**)
“Reason” means to engage in dialogue.
Paul is sharing the gospel as he had done throughout his life - cf. **Matthew 28:18-19, Acts 17:2, 17, 18:4, 19:8-9, etc.**

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Faith in Christ

- An obvious reference to what one needs to do to become and stay saved.

John 3:16

Acts 8:35-38 - Philip to the Eunuch

Acts 16:31-33 - Paul to the jailer

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Righteousness

- Living a godly life, based upon His standard. Seeking to please Him by doing and being right.
- **1 Corinthians 6:9-10,**
2 Corinthians 6:14 – unrighteousness
- **Romans 4:2-4** - Abraham believed
James 2:21-24 - it is not a passive faith (**cf. 1 John 3:7**)

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Righteousness

- Paul lived a life striving to be righteous - **Philippians 3:8-9**. It was not his standard, but God's - **cf. Romans 10:1-3**.
- **2 Timothy 3:16-17** - His word instructs us in righteousness

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Righteousness

- Consider Felix - if history is accurate, he was not living a righteous life. He needed to hear where he was and what he needed to do.
- **Romans 5:18-19** - but even when we do what we should do, our righteousness is still only possible through God's gift in Jesus. Preaching "faith in Christ" would have addressed this.

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Self-control

- Temperance. Taking control of one's life. Doing what you ought to be doing and not doing what you should not be doing.
IT is about mastering your desires, passions and sensual appetites
- Self control is totally up to you!

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Self-control

- Self-control is behind every sin we commit. It is also a catalyst in virtually every success or failure. It factors into our demeanor and accomplishments, as well as how we interact with others AND what we do with relationships, physical or spiritual.

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Self-control

- **Proverbs 29:11**, *A fool vents all his feelings, But a wise man holds them back.*
- **Galatians 5:22-23, 2 Peter 1:5-7, Titus 2:11-12** - God's grace appeared ...

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Self-control

- **1 Corinthians 9:26-27**, Paul brought his body into subjection...
- **1 Thessalonians 4:3-7** - our sanctification is about abstaining “*from sexual immorality, that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God...*”

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Judgment to come

- **Hebrews 9:27**, *it is appointed for men to die once...*
- **Acts 24:14-16** - as Paul spoke, he mentioned his hope in God “*that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust...*”
- **John 5:25-29, Romans 2:5-11, 2 Corinthians 5:10-11**

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Why these 3?

- The reason, or the details are not recorded. But they are fundamental in leading one to salvation.

Righteousness - how do we need to live? What changes do we need?

Self-control - the discipline in need to change

Judgment to come - our motivation

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Why these 3?

- A call to repentance is the essence of these subjects.

Acts 17:30-31

Acts 2:37-38

Felix responds

- **Felix trembled!**
NKJV, “Felix was afraid”
There was a provocation or stirring concerning the condition Felix was in.
- That is what the gospel does - **Acts 2:37**
Hebrews 4:12-13, Romans 1:16
Cf. Acts 7:54
- The gospel provokes - BUT how will we respond?

Felix responds

- **Felix procrastinated**
“Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you.”
- Far too often, even when people are convicted, they do not act. They put it off, sometimes with intentions to address it later.
BUT life offers NO guarantees!
James 4:14
- Nowhere do we read of Felix converting. The text implies otherwise

Felix responds

- Felix - a heart unprepared
- Clearly, he had heart issues (**24:25-27**)- **cf. Romans 10:9-10**
- He did not do what was right - kept Paul in prison 2 years
- He sought money - greed, subject to bribery - see **Matthew 19:21-23, 1 Timothy 6:9-10, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, Colossians 3:5, etc.**

Felix responds

- Felix - a heart unprepared
- Clearly, he had heart issues (**24:25-27**)- **cf. Romans 10:9-10**
- He wanted to do the Jews a favor - considered political ramifications over truth. Remember, it was a “favor” that cause Jesus to be crucified. Throughout Acts we find these political, but WRONG, decisions.

Felix responds

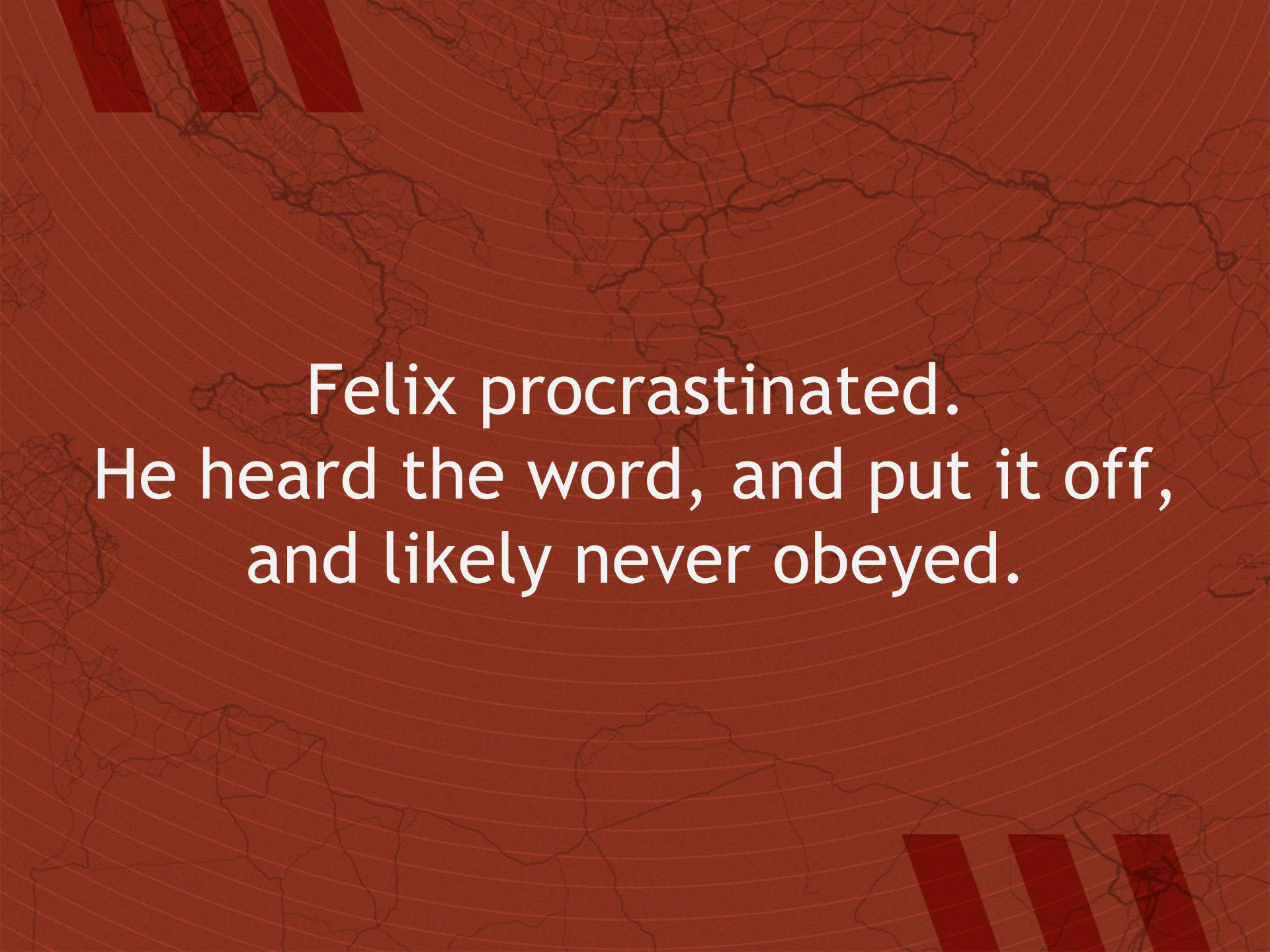
- IF our heart is not right...

It will not take much to keep us from doing what is right.

Acts 8:21-22 - “Your heart is not right”...

Luke 8:4-15 - the parable of sower deals with heart issues.

Cf. Matthew 5:8 - it is the “pure in heart” who will see God.



Felix procrastinated.
He heard the word, and put it off,
and likely never obeyed.

What about you?
You have heard the word too.
What will you do about it?

NOW is the time of
salvation!

2 Corinthians 6:2



Let us pray!