

November 26

Acts 23:23-35

These verses tell of Paul being transferred to the coastal city of Caesarea so that he could appear before Governor Felix.

Question to Consider:

Paul was only doing what he believed God wanted him to do and yet some people wanted to kill him, and others arrested him. Try to imagine yourself in his place, newly arrived in Caesarea. What would you be thinking about? What questions or doubts would you have?

Prayer:

Father God, the day may come when circumstances cause me to wonder whether I have actually done what you wanted me to do. When that happens, please make your will clear and strengthen my resolve. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

November 27

Acts 24:1-27

This passage tells of Paul's testimony before the Governor, Felix, and of subsequent conversations Paul had with Felix and his wife.

Question to Consider:

There is an important detail at the beginning of the last verse. It says, "When two years had passed." Two years! How do you suppose Paul kept up his spirits during that long ordeal?

Prayer:

Loving God, no doubt Paul said the same words spoken by the disciples to Jesus, "Increase our faith." I raise that same prayer, Lord – *increase my faith*. In the name of Jesus I pray, Amen.

November 28

Acts 25:1-12

Paul went before the governor who succeeded Felix, and immediately appealed his case to Caesar.

Question to Consider:

Paul's citizenship gave him an opportunity to use the civil court system and hopefully save his life and regain his freedom. Is it ever okay to turn to the civil courts to settle a religious dispute? If you believe the answer is yes, under what circumstances?

Prayer:

All knowing God, I pray for wisdom. When conflicts arise, guide me to use the appropriate resources so that your will is done. I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

November 29

Acts 27:1-12

These verses tell the first part of the story of Paul's sailing journey to Rome.

Question to Consider:

Paul knew that trouble awaited them on their journey, but the centurion would not listen to him. Has there been a time when you sensed trouble ahead? What did you do? What was the result?

Prayer:

Almighty God, I know that fear can hold me back unnecessarily, but I also know that there are times when fear is appropriate. I pray for discernment. Help me to know when to push through my fear, and help me to know when to listen to it. I pray in Christ's name, Amen.

November 30

Acts 27:13-26

This passage tells the second part of the story of Paul's sailing journey to Rome.

Question to Consider:

In the midst of a storm, Paul told the crew that an angel of God spoke to him and offered words of assurance about their safety. Try to put yourself in the place of one of the crewmembers. How do you think you might have reacted to Paul's statements?

Prayer:

All knowing God, storms come in a variety of forms. I pray that I will always put my trust in you – whatever storm I face. In the name of Jesus I pray, Amen.