

LESSON 12

FOLLOW THE LEADER

ACTS 23:23—26:32



1 What comes to mind when you hear the phrase *God's will*?

2 At what time(s) have you had a clear sense of God's leading?



Read Acts 23:23—26:32 and the following notes:

☐ 23:23, 24 ☐ 24:27 ☐ 25:10, 11 ☐ 25:23ff ☐ 26:28, 29

3 Why did the Roman commander send Paul to Caesarea (23:23–30)?

4 Why did Felix keep Paul in prison for two years (24:26, 27)?

5 Why did Paul appeal to Caesar (25:9–12)?

6 How did Felix, Festus, and Agrippa react differently to Paul (24:22–27; 25:23—26:32)?

7 What proofs for Christianity did Paul present to Agrippa (26:4–23)?

Learning of the plot on Paul's life, Claudius Lysias sent Paul to Governor Felix. Paul impressed Felix with his defense, but Felix kept him imprisoned for two years, hoping to receive a bribe. When Festus took over, the Jewish leaders tried to convince him to send Paul back to Jerusalem to stand trial (they really wanted to kill him). Festus refused, and Paul made his defense again. Then, in a dramatic move, Paul appealed to Caesar. Because of this appeal, Paul defended himself again, this time in front of Herod Agrippa. In every circumstance, in prison or in court, Paul listened to God and then obeyed. Fearlessly he proclaimed the gospel and his personal conversion story. He appealed to Caesar, knowing that this would take him to Rome, where he knew God was leading him. Imagine the powerful impact Christians would have today if they would do what God asked them, say what God told them, and go where they knew God was leading them.



8 Why did Paul want to go to Rome?

9 How does God reveal his will to Christians today? How do we know what he wants us to do?

10 Put yourself in Paul's place. Who would be the Jewish leaders and Roman rulers today?

11 What are you sure that God has called all Christians to do?



12 When have you followed God's leading to go someplace? How did you know what God wanted you to do?

13 When have you followed God's leading to speak up for him? How did you know what God wanted you to say?

14 When have you been tempted to disobey God by staying where you were or by keeping silent?

15 Where is God leading you in your actions? in your words?



A What were the false accusations the Jewish leaders made against Paul (24:2–9)? How did Paul defend himself against those accusations (24:10–21)? When have you been falsely accused of something? How can you respond to false accusations?

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B How did Felix respond to Paul’s witness for Christ (24:24–27)? What did Felix mean by “when it is more convenient” (24:25)? When would be a convenient time for you to listen to God’s Word?

C In this section, what opportunities did God give Paul to present the gospel (23:23—26:32)? How did Paul know that he could speak about Christ at those times? What opportunities might God give you to witness for him in the near future?

D What evidence did Paul present for the truth of Christianity (26:4–23)? What made these proofs so convincing (26:25, 26)? Why do you think it was difficult for Festus and Agrippa to believe in Christ? What evidence of Christ’s deity have you presented to others? How did they respond?