

Where's Your Chair?

Acts 25 13-27



Great is your compassion, O Lord; give me life, according to your judgments.
Many there are that persecute and oppress me,
yet do I not swerve from your testimonies.

Psalm 119:156-157

Praising:

Thy promise is my only plea,
with this I venture nigh;
thou callest burdened souls to
thee,
and such, O Lord, am I.

Reading:

Acts 25:13-27

Paul's defence before Agrippa

As king of that locality, Agrippa would have had an intimate knowledge of Jewish beliefs and customs. Whatever complaints Festus had expected the Jews to make against Paul, they had come instead with matters of internal Jewish disagreement. Central to the case had been an individual called Jesus whom Paul claimed had come back from death to life. Seemingly intrigued by what he has heard, though perhaps anxious also to

keep the peace with his Roman overlords, Agrippa offers to hear Paul himself. It looks like this is exactly what Festus has been hoping for. The proceedings the following day are full of pomp and formality, but it emerges that what Festus wants to glean from the hearing is a set of clear accusations which he may commit to writing and send with the prisoner to the Emperor.

Listening:

Praying:

Lord focus our life as your people on the death and resurrection of Jesus

- that the Christ of cross and empty tomb would be our central spiritual reality
- that all we think and say about God would be shaped by Calvary and what followed it
- that the power of Christ's Easter victory would be our drive, energy and strength

Father: deepen my faith in your risen Son and his ability to grab attention, stir consciences, unsettle complacency and warm hearts – that what he does for me, he can do for all. Amen

Doing:

Tuesday, 12 July 2016