

Where's Your Chair?

Acts 24 1-9



Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies, for I flee to you for refuge.
Psalm 143:9

Praising:

Take up thy cross, nor heed the
shame,
nor let thy foolish pride rebel:
thy Lord for thee the cross
endured,
to save thy soul from death and
hell.

Reading:

Acts 24:1-9

A lawyer presents the case
against Paul

Nearly a week passes before the
high priest and his entourage
arrive. They have drafted in a
lawyer called Tertullus who sets
about buttering-up the judge
straight away. His opening
remarks about Felix and the
Romans bringing peace is pure
flattery and transparently untrue.
Nor had Paul's detention in
Jerusalem been a formal arrest,

so much as soldiers stepping in
to prevent a lynching. In branding
Paul an agitator, Tertullus lumps
him in with other insurrectionists
whom the Romans have already
despatched with lethal efficiency.
Likewise, in declaring Paul the
leader of the Nazarenes, they
associate him with the string of
false messiahs who were such a
headache for the Roman
authorities. Tertullus's final angle,
is to present Paul as a defiler of
the Temple and so force Felix to
take the side of the pro-Roman
Temple priests.

Listening:

Praying:

Lord we pray for those who have
been made the subjects of
falsehood and lies

- whose names have been
blackened by outright slander
or deliberate
misrepresentation
- whose reputations,
businesses and livelihoods
have been damaged or
destroyed
- whose families have suffered
the same experience of
indignity and humiliation

Father: prepare me for the things
people will say when they
discover I follow Christ. See me
through the sarcasm, sniggers
and cynicism his disciples have
suffered in every age. Amen

Doing:

Wednesday, 06 July 2016