

Where's Your Chair?

Acts 24 22-27



My mouth shall tell of your righteousness and salvation all the day long,
for I know no end of the telling.
Psalm 71:15

Praising:

Lord, cleanse the depths within
our souls
and bid resentment cease.
Then, bound to all in bonds of
love,
our lives will spread your peace.

Reading:

Acts 24:22-27
A case adjourned

The courtroom drama subsides as Felix postpones the hearing until Lysias the tribune arrives. Paul stays in custody, though with a degree of freedom and access to his fellow Christians. The mood changes with the arrival of Felix's Jewish wife Drusilla. A famous beauty, Drusilla was the sister of Herod Agrippa II whom Felix had seduced away from her first husband Azizus the King of

Emessa. This domestic history explains Felix's fearful reaction to what Paul says about self-control, personal morality and the judgment of God. It then emerges Felix is holding out for money from Paul – a bribe perhaps. It is not clear whether Felix's replacement arrives two years after Felix started as governor, or whether Paul has now spent two years in prison. What is clear, is that Felix's overriding concern remains pleasing the Jews.

Listening:

Praying:

Lord give us confidence to stand up for your truth

- to point people to the light and wisdom of your will as a better way to live
- to resist in love and gentleness when your eternal principles are sidelined or jettisoned
- to help pick up the pieces when your advice is ignored and things start falling apart

Father: so often I feel morally cornered. I don't want to seem judgmental but please show me a way to rejoice in the blessing and flourishing that only comes from believing and obeying. Amen

Doing:

Friday, 08 July 2016