

Where's Your Chair?

Acts 26 1-11



Lord, how I love your law! All the day long it is my study.
Your commandments have made me wiser than my enemies,
for they are ever with me.
Psalm 119:97-98

Praising:

Approach, my soul, the mercy-seat
where Jesus answers prayer;
there humbly fall before his feet,
for none can perish there.

Reading:

Acts 25:1-12
A new governor steps in

The religious authorities in Jerusalem quickly bring Paul's trial to the attention of the new governor Festus. But he rejects their request that the hearing be transferred back to Jerusalem – unawares that it had actually been another ruse to kill Paul as he travelled. On Festus's return to Caesarea, Paul's case is promptly re-convened and once again the Jews present a list of unsubstantiated charges. For the new governor suddenly to offer

the prisoner the option of returning to Jerusalem for a trial before Festus suggests that pressure has been brought to bear upon him, but it is certainly a compromise proposition. Not that Paul is tempted. Because he knows that his only safety lies in his Roman citizenship with its right of appeal, Paul insists on the Emperor's tribunal. Festus has no choice but to accede.

Listening:

Praying:

We hold before you all those in positions of legal authority

- that independence, transparency and fairness would be their watchwords
- that they would resist all attempts to influence, sway and bias them
- that judgment and the need for punishment would be coloured by mercy

Father: when all power is taken from me, grant me Christ's peace. To trust in your call, to wait patiently on your timing and to know that whatever happens, you will lead me through. Amen

Doing:

Wednesday, 13 July 2016