

July 12, 2026

Acts 25:1-12

God Steers Broken Wheels



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Sermon Notes

Acts 25:1–12 (ESV)

¹Now three days after Festus had arrived in the province, he went up to Jerusalem from Caesarea.

²And the chief priests and the principal men of the Jews laid out their case against Paul, and they urged him,

³asking as a favor against Paul that he summon him to Jerusalem—because they were planning an ambush to kill him on the way.

⁴Festus replied that Paul was being kept at Caesarea and that he himself intended to go there shortly.

⁵“So,” said he, “let the men of authority among you go down with me, and if there is anything wrong about the man, let them bring charges against him.”

⁶After he stayed among them not more than eight or ten days, he went down to Caesarea. And the next day he took his seat on the tribunal and ordered Paul to be brought.

⁷When he had arrived, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him, bringing many and serious charges against him that they could not prove.

⁸Paul argued in his defense, “Neither against the law of the Jews, nor against the temple, nor against Caesar have I committed any offense.”

⁹But Festus, wishing to do the Jews a favor, said to Paul, “Do you wish to go up to Jerusalem and there be tried on these charges before me?”

¹⁰But Paul said, “I am standing before Caesar’s tribunal, where I ought to be tried. To the Jews I have done no wrong, as you yourself know very well.

¹¹If then I am a wrongdoer and have committed anything for which I deserve to die, I do not seek to escape death. But if there is nothing to their charges against me, no one can give me up to them. I appeal to Caesar.”

¹²Then Festus, when he had conferred with his council, answered, “To Caesar you have appealed; to Caesar you shall go.”

(Answer key located on the last page)

Theme: God's sovereign purpose for His servants moves forward not in spite of corrupt systems and self-interested men, but through them.

I. The Plot That Persists *Acts 25:1–3 (ESV)*

• The Jews asked Festus "as a favor" — the Greek word behind "favor" is _____.

• Verse 3 reveals they were planning an _____ to kill Paul on the way.

APPLICATION — Name your recurring attack and take it to God instead of your own hands. Pray Psalm 37:1–7 over it.

II. The Process That Protects *Acts 25:4–5 (ESV)*

• Proverbs 21:1 — "The king's heart is a _____ of water in the hand of the Lord."

- God's purpose was moving forward _____ the Roman system — not in spite of it.

APPLICATION — Open your eyes to God's ordinary protections this week and thank Him for one out loud.

III. The Peace That Prevails *Acts 25:6–8 (ESV)*

- The accusers brought many charges that they could not _____.
- Paul's peace came from a clear _____ (Acts 24:16).
- Our conscience is washed clean by His _____ (Hebrews 9:14).

APPLICATION — Do a conscience check before Sunday. Pray Psalm 139:23–24: "Search me, O God, and know my heart!"

IV. The Path That's Promised *Acts 25:9–12 (ESV)*

- Festus wanted to do the Jews a _____ (v. 9).
- Paul declared, "I _____ to Caesar" (v. 11).
- Years earlier, the Lord promised Paul: "You must testify also in _____" (Acts 23:11).

APPLICATION — Write down God's promise of Romans 8:28 and stand on it while you wait.

PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Where in your life right now do you see a "broken wheel" that God may be quietly steering toward His promise?

Answer Key

I. The Plot That Persists

1) grace 2) ambush

II. The Process That Protects

1) stream 2) through

III. The Peace That Prevails

1) prove 2) conscience 3) blood

IV. The Path That's Promised

1) favor 2) appeal 3) Rome

The Good News

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, (Romans 5:1)

The Bad News

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
(Romans 3:23)

The Ugly News

For the wages of sin is death, ... (Romans 6:23a)

The Great News

... but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
(Romans 6:23a)

Guess What?

You can become a Christian right now and experience salvation and the gift of eternal life through God's Son the Lord Jesus Christ! Simply Pray this Prayer Right Now! **"God thank you for Jesus Christ who died on the cross for my sins.**

Thank you for receiving what Jesus did for me on the cross as payment for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins. Right now I accept Jesus into my heart and ask that he become my Savior and Lord! Amen!"

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. (Romans 10:9–10)

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