

“Power and Placement”

Who has power/influence over you? Who/what gives them that power?

Read Acts 25:1-27.

1. Why did the Jewish leaders press Festus right away about Paul?
 - A. They still had very strong feelings against Paul.
 - B. With a new governor, they hoped they could get a different verdict.
 - C. They feared that with a new governor, Paul might be set free.
 - D. Satan was even more concerned than the Jewish leaders about Paul.
 - E. Festus didn't know much about Christianity.
 - F. The 40 guys who vowed a fast were still hungry (from Acts 23:12-13).
 - G. Festus knew little about this part of the Roman Empire.
 - H. They were willing to draw on their Jewish political capital for a favor.
 - I. Other.

2. Why did Paul appeal to Caesar?
 - A. Festus wasn't going to protect him.
 - B. To get away from the Jewish persecutors in the region.
 - C. Paul always wanted to get to Rome somehow.
 - D. God had revealed to Paul that he should make this appeal.
 - E. Without a change, Paul would just rot away in jail.
 - F. He trusted leaders in government more than leaders in religion.
 - G. He wanted to give his Damascus-road testimony to Caesar.
 - H. It's what his defense attorney recommended.
 - I. Other.

3. Why did Festus agree to send Paul to Rome?
 - A. He just wanted to get rid of him.
 - B. To get Paul out of his hair so he might have good Jewish relations.
 - C. He had no choice; Paul had appealed to Caesar.
 - D. The guards recommended it.
 - E. Prison overcrowding in Caesarea.
 - F. Provide a clean slate as the new governor in the area.
 - G. This was one way for Festus to put his name in front of Caesar.
 - H. It was a way he could set Paul free without angering the Jews.
 - I. Other.

4. What was it about King Agrippa's background that added to this scene?
 - A. He was in the line of the Herods (according to Matthew 2; Acts 12).
 - B. Agrippa was quite religious in his personal practices.
 - C. His sister was Drusilla, wife of Governor Felix.
 - D. His great-grandmother was a Jew.
 - E. He determined who the high priest in Jerusalem would be.
 - F. The Jews loved him.
 - G. He had a history of persecuting Christians.
 - H. His territory had been increasing as Rome entrusted him with more.
 - I. Other.

5. What do you think Agrippa wanted to hear from Paul?
 - A. He had heard of Paul, but had never met him.
 - B. It would be more interesting than making small talk with Festus.
 - C. Curiosity about Christianity.
 - D. He liked a challenge.
 - E. To expand his influence in Caesarea.
 - F. The Holy Spirit was working on his heart.
 - G. To help Festus.
 - H. Other.

6. Why didn't Festus know what to write to the emperor about Paul?
 - A. He had never done this previously.
 - B. Festus still didn't understand the issues with Paul's arrest and trial.
 - C. He thought Paul was innocent, so this would waste Caesar's time.
 - D. He should have released Paul already.
 - E. Telling Caesar that Festus felt Jewish intimidation wouldn't be good.
 - F. Festus was powerful, but not very intelligent.
 - G. Festus often experienced "writer's block."
 - H. Other.

7. Why didn't God rescue Paul from jail in Caesarea? Why doesn't God intervene in your life more often?

8. Who is someone you know who consistently is like "salt" and "light" in the world, even if it bothers some people? How can you be God's "salt" and "light" now?