

# Felix the Fool

Acts 24:24-27

## Introduction:

1. The setting here in our text is Herod's palace in Caesarea.
  - a. The halls of this palace had witnessed many bloody scenes
  - b. Here Herod passed death sentence upon his own 2 sons.
  - c. Many Jews were brutalized in this place and screams of believers echoed often, only to be suddenly silenced.
2. Picture this scene as the front gates swing open, and in walks Felix, the Governor of Judea.
  - a. Wearing a royal red robe he makes his impressive entrance
  - b. His life is a success story: born a slave, later freed, and eventually worked his way up to Governor of Judea.
  - c. He was a cruel and covetous man.
3. He sits on the judgment seat with Drusilla at his side.
  - a. She was daughter of Herod Agrippa I, the one who had the Apostle James put to death.
  - b. Her great grandfather, another Herod, attempted to kill the baby Jesus by killing all the infants in Bethlehem
  - c. She was said to be the most beautiful woman on earth
  - d. She was married but Felix laid his eyes on her and had to have her...so he plotted, planned, schemed to steal her away from her husband, whom she eventually divorced
  - e. As she walked into the courtroom, all eyes are on her.
4. Then, in walks the Apostle surrounded by Roman soldiers
  - a. His body shows all the beatings, whippings, and stoning
  - b. His face betrayed the fact that he had lived a hard life
  - c. Chains bind him, and rattle as he moves across the floor.
  - d. He knows what it is to suffer for Christ.
5. Paul stands before the man who had the power to set him free, yet he didn't beg for his life or freedom.
  - a. He stood bold / tall and used the opportunity to preach
  - b. "You'd better tone it down, Paul - slip him some money!"
8. Let's quietly slip in and take a seat and notice...

## I. DISTURBANCE OF FELIX

25 And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, **Felix trembled...**

- "Trembled" = "terrified" for it is that strong a word
- Felix became greatly convicted by the speaking of Paul about the important spiritual matters of life

### A. Paul Preached a Righteousness Felix Did Not Possess

1. God is righteous. Man is not.
  - a) *What appears as righteousness in human view is truly filthy rags compared to God.*
  - b) *Isa 64:6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*
  - c) *That's not God talking about our bad but our good!*
2. Paul put the fear of God in Felix -v. 25 says he trembled
  - a) *We need more preaching like that today.*
  - b) *If we'd lift up our God to His rightful place, people would be under conviction and put in their place!*
3. Paul didn't try to pull God down to Felix' level
  - a) *He preached righteousness and the God who hates sin*
  - b) *Ro 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;*
4. We know that God loves sinners...this is the essence of the gospel. But let's not forget that He hates sin.
5. We see sin differently than God does:
  - a) *Man calls it a weakness, but God calls it wickedness...*
  - b) *Man calls it an accident God calls it abomination*
  - c) *Man calls it chance, God calls it choice*
  - d) *Man calls it a trifle but God calls it a tragedy*
6. Paul brought Felix face to face with God – he saw his sinfulness
7. Do you possess the righteousness needed to go to heaven? You can receive it as a free gift.

## **B. Paul Preached a Temperance Felix Did Not Practice**

**25 And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance...**

1. Temperance means “self-control”.
  - a) *I told you how he got his wife...his 3<sup>rd</sup>, by the way!*
  - b) *He was also a politician who took bribes – vs 26*
2. Felix /Drusilla were illustrations of lack of self-control
  - a) *She divorced her husband to become Felix's third wife*
  - b) *Though she was a Jewess, she lived as though God had never given the 10 Commandments*
  - c) *Felix did not hesitate to lie or even kill to get rid of his enemies and promote himself*
  - d) *He was corrupt, did not hesitate to lie, murder, steal*
  - e) *He lived a life of orgies, parties, and luxury.*
  - f) *Temperance was not something he was familiar with*
3. Many people have never been confronted with the truth about how God feels about their lifestyle.
4. God’s truth needs to be preached
5. Paul shared the other side of hope, “you may not be able to control your passions, but God can...He can temper you and empower you to overcome!
6. By now, Felix has a lump in his throat. “What’s going on here? I called this guy in here to judge him, and he’s judging me!”
7. Paul laid out of the facts. He said:
  - a) *“You need righteousness, and you don’t have it, but you can receive it as a gift.”*
  - b) *“Your conduct is out of control, you’re a sinner by birth, by nature, and by practice and choice, but God your creator can bring you into line.”*
8. Do you possess this supernatural temperance that comes from having the Holy Spirit working in your life?

### **C. Paul Preached a Judgment Felix Could Not Prevent**

25 And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come...

1. God demands righteousness, but you are wicked, and therefore, judgment is coming
2. God's judgment of sin hasn't even arrived yet...but it's coming!
3. Why is Felix trembling? Paul is in chains!
  - a) *He should have been saved right then, but didn't.*
  - b) *Philippian jailer trembled, but responded differently*
4. Righteousness dealt with the sins of yesterday
5. Temperance deals with the temptations of today
6. Judgment deals with the punishment of tomorrow

### **D. Felix Trembled**

1. Never had Felix heard such preaching
2. It is not enough for a person to know the facts abt Christ
3. An emotional response (trembling) is not enough
4. One must repent of sin and trust Christ as Savior
5. Are you ready to face the judgment of God?
6. Are your sins covered by the blood?

## **II. DELAYING BY FELIX**

25 And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, **Go thy way for this time**; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.

### **A. Felix Procrastinated**

1. Felix "answered" that means that Paul must have asked him to trust Christ as Savior
2. "Go thy way" - What a tragic statement
3. Conviction gripped his heart but he delayed taking action
4. Felix wouldn't deal w/ the most important matters of life
5. No one gains by putting off dealing with eternity
6. Delay leads to damnation
7. Procrastination never prospered anyone

## **B. Don't You Put Off Trusting Christ as Savior**

1. Wait and you lose today
  - a) *We say "do this before you die" as if eternity is the only thing at stake.*
  - b) *We say, "get saved, you might die!"*
  - c) *Let's change it to this, "get saved, you might live!"*
  - d) *There's no better life than the Christian life.*
  - e) *Even if there were no heaven, it would still be a better life!*
  - f) *Being a Christian is not a penalty or a fee we pay in order to go to heaven!*
  - g) *We must urge our loved ones and those we witness to at work or otherwise not to wait, because every day is a day we could be living for Jesus, but you're not!*
2. You're not promised tomorrow.

*Pr 27:1 Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.*

  - a) *No one is promised tomorrow.*
  - b) *Listen to your watch tick...every second somebody dies on average, and one of those ticks is reserved for me and you!*
  - c) *None of us are getting out of this world alive.*
  - d) *In spite of medical marvels, the death rate is still 1 per person!*
  - e) *The Bible says your life is like a vapor, like a blade of grass!*
3. Jesus could return at any moment.

*Matt 24:42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.*

  - a) *Some may say, "I don't think He's coming today."*
  - b) *Well, that qualifies as a great moment for Him to come, if He comes as a thief, when least expected!*

*Luke 12:40 Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.*

### III. DELUSION OF FELIX

25c ... when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.

1. Felix was under the delusion that he could wait for a more convenient time to deal with these matters
2. Only a fool thinks that success is built on convenience
  - a) *No war was ever won because of convenience*
  - b) *No business ever succeeded because of convenience*
  - c) *No athlete excels because of convenience*
  - d) *No student gets good grades because of convenience*
  - e) *No soul gets into heaven because of convenience*
3. If you wait for convenience to do right, to take care of spiritual matters you may wait forever
4. Felix never did get back to Paul
  - a) *In two years, Felix was replaced as governor*
  - b) *History tells us he died a miserable man. A few years after this event in our text, he committed suicide, drowning himself in a lake.*
  - c) *Convenience never came for Felix*
5. Don't wait, now is the best time - "today"

#### Conclusion - Danger of Delay

In 1984, a St. Louis woman noticed a few bees buzzing around in her attic. She made no effort to deal with them because there were so few. But over the summer, bees continued to fly in and out of her attic vent while the woman was unaware and unconcerned. Eventually, the whole attic became a hive, and the ceiling of the second-floor bedroom caved in under the weight of hundreds of pounds of honey and thousands of angry bees. Though the woman escaped serious injury, she was unable to repair the damage to her home. Delaying what is necessary might be the definition of procrastination, but the question we need to ask is, What is taking the place of the thing that is necessary? If we are simply ignoring what needs to be done, wasting time, and not fulfilling our duties, then it is time to tackle the problem of procrastination. If we put off dealing with procrastination, our accumulated neglect will fall in on us like an attic full of bees.