

# sermon notes

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February 15, 2025 | Pastor Tony Caffey, Messiah Bible Church | **No Other Name**  
"Paul and a Kangaroo Court: How Christians Respond to Injustice" | **Acts 25:1–12**

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- 1) Don't be \_\_\_\_\_ when politics get in the way of justice (25:1–5)
- 2) Don't be \_\_\_\_\_ to truthfully fighting injustice (25:6–8)
- 3) Don't be \_\_\_\_\_ to use legal means when justice is compromised (25:9–12)

## How should a Christian Respond to an Injustice?

- 1) Uphold \_\_\_\_\_ even when under \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Maintain spiritual \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Fight the temptation to \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Ask the Lord to search your \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Trust that God will \_\_\_\_\_ it all out in the end

## Questions for Further Application of God's Word:

### GO DEEPER

Read Acts 25:1–12. The Jewish leaders in Jerusalem still wanted Paul executed after two years of imprisonment in Caesarea. Why do you think they remained so adamantly opposed to Paul and his message? Why would they still consider him a threat after all that time?

Should Christians be surprised when politicians or governing authorities perpetuate injustice? Would society be better off without political leaders? Why or why not? What does the Bible say about governing authorities (see Rom 13:1–7; 1 Pet 2:13–17)? Are governing authorities *necessary evils*?

When, if ever, is it appropriate to disregard governing authorities? When is it wise to use the legal structures of society to resist injustice, as Paul did by invoking his Roman citizenship and appealing to Caesar?

### GET PERSONAL

How do Christians advocate for justice in our modern world? Should we use the judicial system? Should we be involved in politics? How do we discern justice and injustice in this world? How can we discern true injustice carefully and biblically, avoiding the tendency to make exaggerated or unfounded claims of injustice that are increasingly common in our world today?

Was Paul right to truthfully defend himself before Festus and the others? Are there times when silence is the best response to an accusation? Are there times when we should speak out and defend ourselves? How do we discern which response is appropriate?

### PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

How would you respond to someone who argues that Paul was wrong to "appeal to Caesar" in Acts 25? Should Paul have waited on God to fulfill the promise of Acts 23:11? Discuss the intersection of human action (Paul's appeal to Rome) and God's sovereignty (God's promise that Paul would go to Rome). Compare this with Abraham's attempt to fulfill God's promise through Hagar (Gen 16:1–16). In what ways are the situations similar, and how do they differ?

### ADVANCED QUESTIONS FOR DEEPER STUDY

Luke does not explicitly mention God in Acts 25:1–12, much like the book of Esther. Yet God's providential hand works incognito behind the scenes to protect Paul and get him to Rome in fulfillment of Acts 23:11. How does this shape the way you interpret your own circumstances when good and bad things happen? How might this perspective impact your prayer life?

For more on the book of Esther, see the following series at Messiah:

<https://www.messiahbible.org/esther-gods-providence-and-protection>