

Katamares: Acts: 25:13 to 26:1.

25:14 *Paul's Case Set Before Agrippa*

The Witness of Festus.

Chrysostom: See [Paul's] enemies who unwittingly conspired in creating a large audience. Even Agrippa himself falls into a desire for a hearing—and not only does he listen, but he does so with intensity. And then, look at [his] defense. As Festus presents it, he exposes the cruelty of the Jewish leaders. Because when the governor says these things, he is beyond suspicion, resulting in the Jewish leaders being convicted by him. For, after he has exposed the truth about all these things, then God metes out punishment. Felix condemns them, Festus condemns them and, even though he was favorably inclined, Agrippa condemns them too. Homilies on the Acts of the Apostles 51.2

25:22 *I Should Like to Hear Him*

Nothing Can Harm a Christian, Unless He Injure Himself.

Chrysostom: Do you hear the appeal? Do you hear the plotting of the Jews? Do you hear the strife? All this spurred him on in his desire to hear Paul. Festus pleases him, and so Paul becomes more renowned. For such, as I said, were their designs. If it were not so, none of the rulers would have agreed to listen to him or to have listened with such peace and quiet. He seems to be teaching and defending himself; in fact, he is making a public speech in good order. Therefore let us not consider plots as something difficult to bear, as long as we are not plotting against ourselves. For no one will be able to plot against us; or rather, they will plot, but they will do no harm but instead help us greatly. For it is within our power both to suffer and not to suffer evil. Look, I testify and affirm with a loud voice, more piercing than even the trumpet—and if it were possible, I would not hesitate to ascend on high and shout it out, that none of the human beings who inhabit the earth can harm a Christian. But why do I say “humans”? Not even the demon himself, not the tyrant, not the devil could do this, unless the Christian were to wrong himself. Indeed, whatever anyone does to us, he does it in vain. Homilies on the Acts of the Apostles 51.1

25:23 *Agrippa and Bernice*

A Grand Event.

Chrysostom: See what a great audience is gathered around Paul, “With the prominent men,” he says, “of the city.” The governor brought all the bodyguards, and the king and the tribunes were present. Catena on the Acts of the Apostles 25.23.2

25:25 *Nothing Deserving Death*

Justice Providentially Delayed.

Ammonius: The judge himself bears witness to him that he is innocent, and even so he did not free him, since the Lord had so arranged things that he made an appeal, and as a consequence of his appeal he was sent to Rome. In this way, what he had predicted, “I must see Rome,”³ might be fulfilled. Catena on the Acts of the Apostles 25.25.4