



# PART 1

# PAUL IN CHAINS:

# LEADERSHIP

# IN ACTION

## Chapter One

## EARNING TRUST

In [Acts 21:11](#), the prophet Agabus had warned Paul that in Jerusalem he would be taken prisoner by the Jews and handed over to the Gentiles.

[Acts 21:11 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>11</sup>“And coming to us, he took Paul’s belt and bound his own feet and hands, and said, “This is what the Holy Spirit says: ‘In this way the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.’”

Paul knew the prophecy was true, but he was committed to the ministry God had called him to, and he replied, “I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus” ([v. 13](#)).

[Acts 21:13 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>13</sup>“Then Paul answered, “What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but even to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.”

According to [Acts 21:27](#), Paul went to the temple in Jerusalem, where he was seen by some Jewish worshipers from Asia who recognized him.

[Acts 21:27 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>27</sup>“When the seven days were almost over, the Jews from Asia, upon seeing him in the temple, *began* to stir up all the crowd and laid hands on him.”

They falsely accused him of defiling the temple. They knew he was traveling with Trophimus, who was a Gentile, and [Acts 21:29](#) says they falsely supposed Paul had brought Trophimus with him into the temple—which was forbidden for Gentiles. So they started a great riot over what began as a simple misunderstanding born out of their hatred for Paul.

**Acts 21:28-30 (NASB)**

<sup>28</sup> “Crying out, “Men of Israel, come to our aid! This is the man who preaches to all men everywhere against our people and the Law and this place; and besides he has even brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place.”

<sup>29</sup> For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian in the city with him, and they supposed that Paul had brought him into the temple.

<sup>30</sup> Then all the city was provoked, and the people rushed together, and taking hold of Paul they dragged him out of the temple, and immediately the doors were shut.”

Paul was therefore arrested and taken to Caesarea for trial. Apparently, the Romans didn't know what to do with him. They seem to have arrested him mainly to pacify the Jewish leaders who were screaming for vengeance against him. Paul was then kept in custody in Caesarea for more than two years ([Acts 24:27](#)).

**Acts 24:27 (NASB)**

<sup>27</sup> “But after two years had passed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus, and wishing to do the Jews a favor, Felix left Paul imprisoned.”

He was put on trial first before **Felix**, then before **Festus**, then before **Herod Agrippa II**. Two Roman governors and the last ruler in the Herodian dynasty all personally heard his case. Each one judged him unworthy of death or chains, but they kept him in prison anyway, **because to release him would have created political problems with the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem.**

It was during the trial before Festus that Paul appealed directly to Caesar. This was his right as a Roman citizen. According to [Acts 26:32](#), Agrippa privately told Festus, “**This man might have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar**” ([Acts 26:32](#)). Perhaps he really meant that. More likely, Herod and Festus would have continued using Paul as a pawn. But since Paul had appealed to Nero, he had to be sent to Rome.

**Acts 26:30-32 (NASB)**

<sup>30</sup> “The king stood up and the governor and Bernice, and those who were sitting with them,

<sup>31</sup> and when they had gone aside, they *began* talking to one another, saying, “This man is not doing anything worthy of death or imprisonment.”

<sup>32</sup> And Agrippa said to Festus, “This man might have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar.”

That is the historical context at the beginning of [Acts 27](#). Paul is in Caesarea. He is to be sent to Rome to stand trial before Nero. His long imprisonment in Caesarea is over, and now a new chapter begins as the Roman procurator makes arrangements for the long passage to Rome.

**Acts 27:1-44 (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup> “When it was decided that we would sail for Italy, they proceeded to deliver Paul and some other prisoners to a centurion of the Augustan cohort named Julius.

<sup>2</sup> And embarking in an Adramyttian ship, which was about to sail to the



regions along the coast of Asia, we put out to sea accompanied by Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica.

<sup>3</sup> The next day we put in at Sidon; and Julius treated Paul with consideration and allowed him to go to his friends and receive care.

<sup>4</sup> From there we put out to sea and sailed under the shelter of Cyprus because the winds were contrary.

<sup>5</sup> When we had sailed through the sea along the coast of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we landed at Myra in Lycia.

<sup>6</sup> here the centurion found an Alexandrian ship sailing for Italy, and he put us aboard it.

<sup>7</sup> When we had sailed slowly for a good many days, and with difficulty had arrived off Cnidus, since the wind did not permit us *to go* farther, we sailed under the shelter of Crete, off Salmone;

<sup>8</sup> and with difficulty sailing past it we came to a place called Fair Havens, near which was the city of Lasea.

<sup>9</sup> When considerable time had passed and the voyage was now dangerous, since even the fast was already over, Paul *began* to admonish them,