

Power From on High

Series: Power From On High
Title: When Sin Rules the Heart
Lesson: 137

Text: Acts 25:1-12
Date: June 28, 2026

Paul's ministry life

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28

23% or 1/4 234 verses

Why does Luke give such disproportionate attention to Paul's chains?

**Hardship, opposition, and suffering do not silence the gospel,
they _____ it.**

Philippians 1:12 Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel,

**The gospel does not need ideal circumstances, it needs
_____ witnesses.**

Five signs of a heart ruled by sin:

1. Sin _____ in its agenda.

Acts 25:1 Festus then, having arrived in the province, three days later went up to Jerusalem from Caesarea.

“Festus”

2 And the chief priests and the leading men of the Jews brought charges against Paul, and they were urging him, 3 requesting a concession against Paul, that he might have him brought to Jerusalem

3a (at the same time, setting an ambush to kill him on the way)

Proverbs 29:22 An angry man stirs up strife, And a hot-tempered man abounds in transgression.

Anger doesn't stay contained, it spreads outward as conflict and leads to more sin.

2. Sin _____ power.

2–3 And the chief priests and the leading men of the Jews brought charges against Paul, and they were urging him, 3 requesting a concession against Paul, that he might have him brought to Jerusalem (at the same time, setting an ambush to kill him on the way).

3. Sin is _____ by providence.

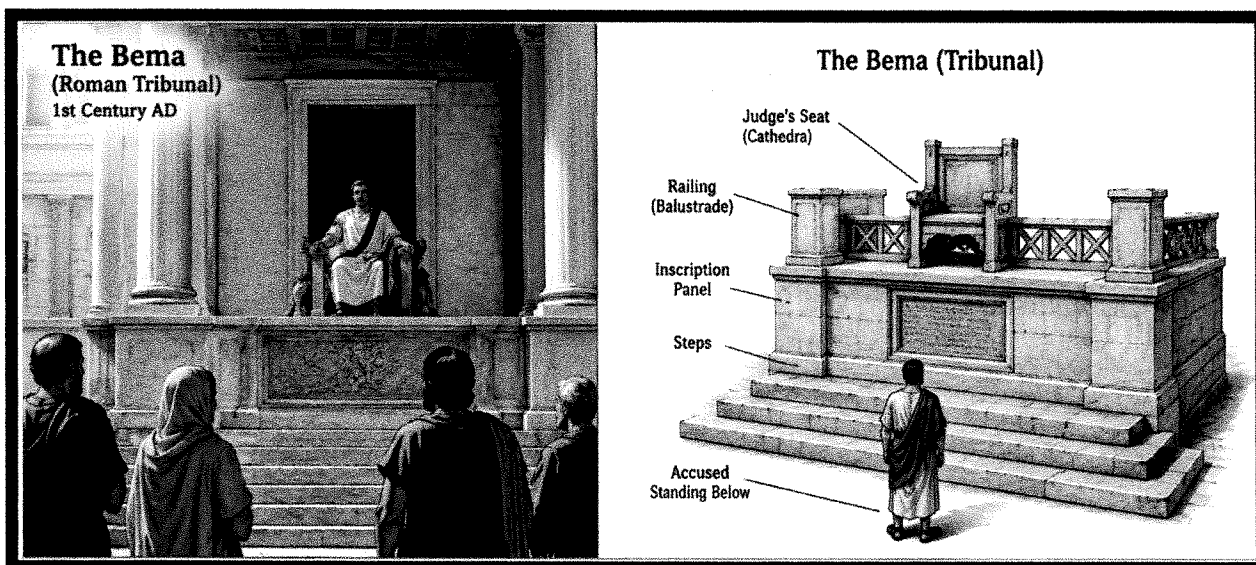
4 Festus then answered that Paul was being kept in custody at Caesarea and that he himself was about to leave shortly. 5 Therefore,” he said, “let the influential men among you go there with me, and if there is anything wrong about the man, let them prosecute him.”

6 After he had spent not more than eight or ten days among them, he went down to Caesarea, and on the next day he took his seat on the tribunal and ordered Paul to be brought.

“Not more than eight or ten days”

“took his seat on the tribunal”

“tribunal” [bema]



4. Sin _____ truth.

7 After Paul arrived, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him, bringing many and serious charges against him which they could not prove,

8 while Paul said in his own defense, “I have committed no offense either against the Law of the Jews or against the temple or against Caesar.”

5. Sin _____ integrity.

9 But Festus, wishing to do the Jews a favor, answered Paul and said, “Are you willing to go up to Jerusalem and stand trial before me on these charges?”

“wishing to do the Jews a favor”

10 But Paul said, “I am standing before Caesar’s tribunal, where I ought to be tried. I have done no wrong to the Jews, as you also very well know.

11 “If, then, I am a wrongdoer and have committed anything worthy of death, I do not refuse to die; but if none of those things is true of which these men accuse me, no one can hand me over to them. I appeal to Caesar.”

Paul's response helps us understand what biblical submission to government looks like in Romans 13.

Romans 13:1 Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.

11 “If, then, I am a wrongdoer and have committed anything worthy of death, I do not refuse to die; but if none of those things is true of which these men accuse me, no one can hand me over to them. I appeal to Caesar.”

Submission to governing authorities does not require

Christians to surrender themselves to _____

or cooperate with corruption.

12 Then when Festus had conferred with his council, he answered, "You have appealed to Caesar, to Caesar you shall go."

Implication

A heart ruled by sin produces corruption and instability, but a heart ruled by God produces integrity and the presence of

_____.

The greatest evidence that God is ruling your heart isn't the absence of trials, it's the presence of stability in the midst of them.

Discussion Guide

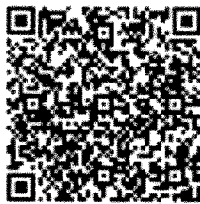
1. Which of the five signs of a heart ruled by sin stood out to you the most, and why?

1. Sin PERSISTS in its agenda. (vv. 1–2)
2. Sin WEAPONIZES power. (v. 3)
3. Sin is RESTRAINED by providence. (vv. 4–6)
4. Sin RESISTS truth. (vv. 7–8)
5. Sin COMPROMISES integrity. (vv. 9–12)

2. What are some ways unresolved anger or resentment can quietly grow in our own hearts if we don't deal with it biblically?

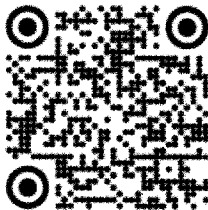
3. Paul respected governing authorities while also appealing to his legal rights (Acts 25:10–11). What does this teach us about balancing submission to authority with standing for truth and justice as Christians?

4. In what area of your life is God calling you to become more steadfast rather than being controlled by circumstances or emotions?

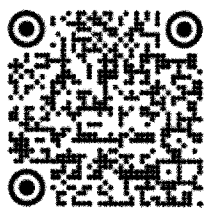


Circus Week 2026

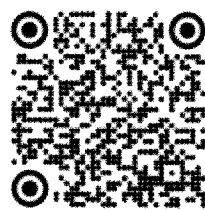
Interested in serving during Circus Week? Scan the QR code for details about service opportunities and evangelism conversation starters. Join us as we connect with our community and share the hope of Christ. Please prayerfully consider serving at the booth this year. See Jason Winegardner for more information.



**Meet
the Staff**



**Online
Giving**



**Weekly
Announcements**

ANSWERS: advance, faithful, persists, weaponizes, restrained, resists, compromises, injustice, stability