

Acts 25:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said Paul, I stand at Caesar's judgment seat, where I ought to be judged: to the Jews have I done no wrong, as thou very well knowest.

Analysis

I stand at Caesar's judgment seat, where I ought to be judged—Paul's declaration asserts his legal rights as a Roman citizen while exposing Festus's improper proposal. The Greek 'hestōs eimi' (I am standing) emphasizes his current legal position. **To the Jews have I done no wrong, as thou very well knowest** (καλλιον ἐπιγινώσκεις, kallion epiginōskeis)—'you know better, you know full well.'

Paul fearlessly confronts the procurator's moral cowardice. The phrase 'very well knowest' implies Festus had already concluded Paul's innocence but sought political compromise. Paul refuses to be a pawn in provincial politics, asserting that truth and justice matter more than administrative convenience.

Historical Context

As a Roman citizen (civis Romanus), Paul possessed rights unavailable to provincials: protection from arbitrary punishment, formal trial procedures, and—crucially—the right of appeal to Caesar. Caesarea was the proper jurisdiction for a citizen's trial. Festus's proposal violated Roman law, and Paul knew it.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does Paul's bold assertion of legal rights inform Christian engagement with civic authority?
2. When is it appropriate to confront even powerful officials who compromise truth for political convenience?

Interlinear Text

εἶπεν	δὲ	ὁ	Παῦλος	Ἐπὶ	τοῦ	βήματος	Καίσαρος
said	Then		Paul	at		judgment seat	Caesar's
G2036	G1161	G3588	G3972	G1909	G3588	G968	G2541
ἐστώς	εἰμι	οὗ	με	δεῖ	κρίνεσθαι	Ἰουδαίους	οὐδὲν
	I stand	where	I	ought	to be judged	to the Jews	no
G2476	G1510	G3757	G3165	G1163	G2919	G2453	G3762
ἡδίκησα	ὥς	καὶ	σὺ	κάλλιον	ἐπιγινώσκεις		
have I done	as		thou	very well	knowest		
G91	G5613	G2532	G4771	G2566	G1921		

Additional Cross-References

2 Corinthians 4:2 (Parallel theme): But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.