

# 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

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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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

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εἶπεν δὲ ὁ Παῦλος Ἐπὶ τοῦ βήματος Καίσαρος  
said Then G3588 Paul at G3588 judgment seat Caesar's  
G2036 G1161 G3972 G1909 G968 G2541

ἔστώς είμι οὐ με δεῖ κρίνεσθαι Ἰουδαίους οὐδὲν  
G2476 I stand where I ought to be judged to the Jews no  
G1510 G3757 G3165 G1163 G2919 G2453 G3762

ἡδίκησα ὡς καὶ σὺ κάλλιον ἐπιγινώσκεις  
have I done as G2532 thou very well knowest  
G91 G5613 G4771 G2566 G1921

## Additional Cross-References

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**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 commanding ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.