

# Acts 25:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

About whom, when I was at Jerusalem, the chief priests and the elders of the Jews informed me, desiring to have judgment against him.

## Analysis

**The chief priests and the elders of the Jews informed me, desiring to have judgment against him** (κατηγόρησαν αἰτούμενοι κατ' αὐτοῦ καταδίκην)—Festus recounts the Jewish leaders' accusation against Paul. The Greek katēgorēsan (informed/accused) is the root of our word 'category'—they catalogued charges. Katadikēn (judgment/condemnation) reveals their goal: not investigation but execution.

This verse captures the irony of Paul's trial narrative: Rome, the pagan empire, sought legal process while Jerusalem's religious establishment demanded summary execution. The 'chief priests and elders' represent Israel's official leadership—the very guardians of God's law now manipulating legal systems to destroy an innocent man. Luke repeatedly shows Rome protecting Paul from Jewish mob violence (Acts 21:31-36, 23:10, 23:23-24), culminating in Paul's appeal to Caesar that secured his Roman imprisonment and opportunity to testify before rulers (Acts 9:15).

## Historical Context

Festus succeeded Felix as procurator of Judea (c. AD 59-62). This conversation occurs as Festus explains Paul's case to King Agrippa II. The Jewish leaders had ambushed Festus during his first visit to Jerusalem (Acts 25:2-3), attempting to manipulate the new governor before he understood Palestinian politics.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

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

## Study Questions

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1. How does religious authority become corrupted when leaders prioritize institutional preservation over truth and justice?
2. When have you seen God's providence using opposition to advance the gospel, as He used these false accusations to bring Paul before Caesar?

## Interlinear Text

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περὶ οὗ γενομένου μου εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα ἐνεφάνισαν  
About whom was I at Jerusalem informed  
G4012 G3739 G1096 G3450 G1519 G2414 G1718

οἱ ἀρχιερεῖς καὶ οἱ πρεσβύτεροι τῶν Ἰουδαίων  
the chief priests and the elders of the Jews  
G3588 G749 G2532 G3588 G4245 G3588 G2453

αἵτούμενοι κατ' αὐτοῦ δίκην  
me desiring against him to have judgment  
G154 G2596 G846 G1349

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