

Acts 25:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Against whom when the accusers stood up, they brought none accusation of such things as I supposed:

Analysis

Against whom when the accusers stood up, they brought none accusation of such things as I supposed—Festus admits surprise. He expected κατηγορίαν (katēgorian, 'accusation, formal charge') of serious crimes—perhaps sedition, riot, or temple violation (capital offenses under Roman law). The phrase ὡν ἐγώ ὑπενούον (hōn egō hypenououn, 'which I was suspecting') reveals he had been briefed about Paul as a dangerous troublemaker.

Instead, the accusations were religious, not criminal. **None accusation of such things as I supposed** indicates the charges didn't match the rhetoric. The Jewish leaders had portrayed Paul as a threat to Rome, but when pressed for evidence, their case dissolved into theological disputes. This echoes Pilate's finding 'no fault' in Jesus (Luke 23:4) and Gallio's dismissal of charges against Paul in Corinth (Acts 18:14-15)—Roman officials repeatedly found Christianity posed no political threat.

Historical Context

Roman governors dealt with genuine insurrectionists regularly—Judea had frequent uprisings and zealot movements. Festus expected charges of sedition (maiestas, treason against Rome) or sacrilege against the temple (which Rome protected as politically stabilizing). When the charges proved religious, Festus was in a bind: he couldn't convict on Jewish theological grounds, but sending Paul back to the Sanhedrin would violate Roman procedure and possibly result in Paul's

murder. This dilemma led to Festus's proposal to try Paul in Jerusalem (v. 9), which Paul refused by appealing to Caesar.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. Why do opponents of the gospel often resort to political accusations (danger to society) when the real issue is theological (rejection of Christ's lordship)?
2. How does Festus's surprise at the nature of accusations reveal the disconnect between how Christianity threatens worldly power and how its opponents portray it?
3. In what ways have you seen theological opposition to Christianity disguised as political or social concerns?

Interlinear Text

περὶ	ὧν	σταθέντες	οἱ	κατήγοροι	οὐδεμίαν
Against	of such things as	stood up	G3588	when the accusers	none
G4012	G3739	G2476		G2725	G3762

αἰτίαν	ἐπέφερον	ὧν	ὑπενόουν	ἐγὼ
accusation	they brought	of such things as	supposed	I
G156	G2018	G3739	G5282	G1473