

# Acts 25:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And because I doubted of such manner of questions, I asked him whether he would go to Jerusalem, and there be judged of these matters.

## Analysis

---

**And because I doubted of such manner of questions**—Festus's candid admission: ἀπορούμενος (aporoumenos, 'being at a loss, perplexed') about τὴν περὶ τούτων ζήτησιν (tēn peri toutōn zētēsin, 'the inquiry concerning these things'). He's honest about his incompetence to judge Jewish theological disputes. This wasn't Roman jurisdiction—theology wasn't a legal category unless it threatened public order.

**I asked him whether he would go to Jerusalem, and there be judged of these matters**—Festus's proposal (ἔλεγον εἰ βούλοιτο πορεύεσθαι, elegon ei bouloito poreuesthai, 'I was asking if he might wish to go') seems reasonable but was actually dangerous. Paul knew the ambush plot (23:12-15) and that the Sanhedrin couldn't give him a fair trial. Festus's suggestion, though presented as accommodation to Paul, was politically motivated—passing a difficult case to Jewish authorities. This sets up Paul's appeal to Caesar in verse 11, which would finally bring him to Rome as God intended (23:11).

## Historical Context

---

Roman officials could refer cases involving Jewish law to the Sanhedrin, especially under a new governor unsure of local dynamics. Festus had been in office only days when the Jewish leaders pressed Paul's case. His offer to try Paul in Jerusalem was politically astute—it would curry favor with Jewish leadership—but

legally questionable since Paul was a Roman citizen in Roman custody. The proposal reveals Festus's political calculation over strict justice. Paul's appeal to Caesar was his legal right as a citizen and would remove the case from Festus's jurisdiction entirely.

## Related Passages

---

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

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

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

---

1. How does Festus's honest perplexity about theological matters illustrate the necessity of the Holy Spirit to understand spiritual truth?
2. What does Paul's refusal to accept trial in Jerusalem teach about wisdom in recognizing danger disguised as accommodation?
3. In what situations should Christians refuse seemingly reasonable compromises that actually endanger gospel faithfulness or personal safety?

## Interlinear Text

---

ἀπορούμενος	δὲ	ἐγὼ	εἰς	τὴν	περὶ	τούτου	ζήτησιν
<b>doubted</b>	<b>And</b>	<b>because I</b>	<b>of</b>	G3588	<b>manner</b>	<b>such</b>	<b>of questions</b>
G639	G1161	G1473	G1519		G4012	G5127	G2214
ἔλεγον	εἰ	βούλοιτο	πορεύεσθαι	εἰς	Ἱερουσαλήμ		
<b>I asked</b>	<b>him whether</b>	<b>he would</b>	<b>go</b>	<b>of</b>	<b>Jerusalem</b>		
G3004	G1487	G1014	G4198	G1519	G2419		
κακεῖ	κρίνεσθαι	περὶ	τούτων				
<b>and there</b>	<b>be judged</b>	<b>manner</b>	<b>these matters</b>				
G2546	G2919	G4012	G5130				

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Acts 25:9** (Judgment): But Festus, willing to do the Jews a pleasure, answered Paul, and said, Wilt thou go up to Jerusalem, and there be judged of these things before me?

---

From KJV Study • [kjevstudy.org](http://kjevstudy.org)