

**Putting a Stop to Procrastination:
The Most Dangerous Form of Procrastination
Acts 24:22-27**

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Introduction: Last week, we talked about “A Biblical Solution to Chronic Procrastination.” We learned that in order to avoid procrastination we ought to follow the will of the Lord, be filled with the Spirit, and focus our life around worship. When we think about spiritual procrastination, I believe that there are at least these two universal truths that are at work. First, **procrastination does not take into account the uncertainty of life**. Second, **procrastination does not take into account the uniqueness of conviction**. These two foundational principles are extremely important as we consider today the most dangerous form of procrastination—**delaying a decision concerning Jesus Christ**.

The book of Acts gives us a sad, yet revealing example of this most dangerous form of procrastination.

Text: ²² Since Felix was accurately informed about the Way, he adjourned the hearing, saying, "When Lysias the commander comes down, I will decide your case." ²³ He ordered that the centurion keep Paul under guard, though he could have some freedom, and that he should not prevent any of his friends from serving him.

²⁴ After some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and listened to him on the subject of faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁵ Now as he spoke about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix became afraid and replied, "Leave for now, but when I find time I'll call for you." ²⁶ At the same time he was also hoping that money would be given to him by Paul. For this reason he sent for him quite often and conversed with him.

²⁷ After two years had passed, Felix received a successor, Porcius Festus, and because he wished to do a favor for the Jews, Felix left Paul in prison.

The Characters

- Paul—Though on trial for preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ, he used his trial as a further opportunity to preach Jesus Christ. Certainly, this speaks volumes concerning the urgency of a response to Jesus. Please notice, believer, that it is going to be you who understand the urgency of a commitment to Jesus Christ, not the unbeliever.
- Felix—He was the Roman government's appointed procurator of Judea. Historical writings of this era paint Felix as an immoral man. The historian, Tacitus, recorded, "He exercised the power of a king with the mind of a slave." Other historians gave evidence of the ruthless, violent nature by which he ruled. In addition, he used the services of a magician to "trick" or "persuade" Drusilla into leaving her husband and becoming his third wife.
- Drusilla—She was the youngest of three daughters of Herod Agrippa I. Her father murdered James, the brother of John, and tried to kill Peter. Her great-uncle Herod Antipas beheaded John the Baptist. Her great-grandfather Herod the Great decreed the mass murder of babies in Bethlehem in an attempt to get rid of the anticipated Messiah. In addition, she apparently was a "seeker of pleasure." Her agreement to marry Felix was the result of "happiness no matter what."

The Bottom Line: They needed Christ!

You are probably a little tired of hearing about Tiger Woods by now. But, did you hear what former news broadcaster Britt Hume said about Tiger. Hume forecasts Woods will recover as a golfer but

...Whether he can recover as a person depends on "his faith. He's said to be a Buddhist. I don't think that faith offers the kind of forgiveness and redemption that is offered by the Christian faith. So my message to Tiger would be, "Tiger, turn to the Christian faith and you can make a total recovery and be a great example to the world."

Paul, Felix, Drusilla, Tiger Woods, you, me—we all have one very urgent need—to trust in Christ for forgiveness of sin and right standing with Him so that we might have what He died to give—eternal life.

The Curiosity of Felix and Drusilla

Even in their sin, God was at work convicting Felix and Drusilla. They called Paul.

The Content of Paul's Message

- Righteousness
- Self-Control
- The Judgment to Come

The Conviction that Followed

He was afraid. As Jonathan Edwards preached, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God," he described sinful man as a spider dangling over a flame. Reports of that era tell us that people would listen to Edwards preach and drive their fingernails into the wooden pews as though they were trying to keep their bodies from falling in.

The Costly Choice

He was afraid, but not afraid enough. He sent him a way.

Let me give you two quick verses to ponder.

Joel 3:14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision.

2 Corinthians 6:2 For He says: In an acceptable time, I heard you, and in the day of salvation, I helped you. Look, now is the acceptable time; look, now is the day of salvation.

The Causes of Procrastination

Probably unlimited, but from this text we can suggest at least these:

1. Unwillingness to deal with sin.
2. Distracted by personal agenda.

3. Disillusioned concerning happiness.

D.L. Moody, a famous evangelist of the 1800's, preached in Chicago on October 8, 1871. His topic was "What Will You Do with Jesus?" He closed that sermon by inviting folks to seriously consider the question for a week and come back the next Sunday to hear a message on the cross. Then, Moody said, "I'll ask you the question again, 'What Will You Do with Jesus?'" They sang a final hymn. The story goes that before the hymn was over, the Great Chicago Fire had erupted. That sermon on the cross never came. Moody often said afterward, "I have never since dared to give an audience a week to think of their salvation."