Paul's Multipart Gospel Proclamation to Felix

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Introduction:

In our recent bible study on II Peter 1 we looked at the example of Paul speaking to Felix, governor of Judea & Syria, about self control.

Section in II Peter 1:

> 2 Peter 1:5 NKJV - But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,
> 2 Peter 1:6 NKJV - to knowledge **self-control**, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness,
> 2 Peter 1:7 NKJV - to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.

The following verses describe what took place a few days after Paul's trial before Felix:
Acts 24:24 NKJV - And after some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ.
Acts 24:25 NKJV - Now as he reasoned about **righteousness, <u>self-control</u>, and the judgment to come,** Felix was afraid and answered, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you."
Acts 24:26 NKJV - Meanwhile he also hoped that money would be given him by Paul, that he might release him. Therefore he sent for him more often and conversed with him.

Specific Purpose of this Message:

Today we will see how Paul was consistently proclaiming the whole Gospel of the Kingdom of God - from the role of Jesus, the need for repentance, to His return and judging all in (the first and second) resurrections.

Need:

Through this example of Paul we see how to proclaim the gospel in a variety of adverse situations… and to trust God in working out the details.

The back story .. or the story leading up to Paul being brought before Felix

Acts 21:17 NKJV - And when we had come to Jerusalem, the brethren received us gladly.
Acts 21:18 NKJV - On the following [day] Paul went in with us to James, and all the elders were present.
Acts 21:19 NKJV - When he had greeted them, he told in detail those things which God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry.
Acts 21:20 NKJV - And when they heard [it], they glorified the Lord. And they said to him, "You see, brother, how many myriads of Jews there are who have believed, and they are all zealous for the law;
Acts 21:21 NKJV - "**but they have been informed about you that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise [their] children nor to walk according to the customs.**
Acts 21:22 NKJV - "What then? The assembly must certainly meet, for they will hear that you have come.
Acts 21:23 NKJV - "Therefore do what we tell you: We have four men who have taken a vow.

Acts 21:24 NKJV - "Take them and be purified with them, and pay their expenses so that they may shave [their] heads, **and that all may know that those things of which they were informed concerning you are nothing, but [that] you yourself also walk orderly and keep the law.**

Peter said people wanted to twist what Paul said.. Which is true even today:

2 Peter 3:15 NKJV - and consider [that] the longsuffering of our Lord [is] salvation--as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you,
2 Peter 3:16 NKJV - as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, **which untaught and unstable [people] twist** to their own destruction, as [they do] also the rest of the Scriptures**.**

Acts 21:25 NKJV - "But concerning the Gentiles who believe, we have written [and] decided that they should observe no such thing, except that they should keep themselves from [things] offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality."
Acts 21:26 NKJV - Then Paul took the men, and the next day, having been purified with them, entered the temple to announce the expiration of the days of purification, at which time an offering should be made for each one of them.

Acts 21:27 NKJV - Now when the seven days were almost ended, the Jews from Asia, seeing him in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd and laid hands on him,
Acts 21:28 NKJV - crying out, **"Men of Israel, help! This is the man who teaches all [men] everywhere against the people, the law, and this place; and furthermore he also brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place."**
Acts 21:29 NKJV - (For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian with him in the city, whom they supposed that Paul had brought into the temple.)

So.. they falsely accused him. They did NOT have proof of him doing anything wrong.

Acts 21:30 NKJV - And all the city was disturbed; and the people ran together, seized Paul, and dragged him out of the temple; and immediately the doors were shut.
Acts 21:31 NKJV - **Now as they were seeking to kill him**, news came to the commander of the garrison that all Jerusalem was in an uproar.

Acts 21:36 NKJV - For the multitude of the people followed after, crying out, "Away with him!"

Amplified Bible: for the majority of the people kept following them, shouting, "Away with him! [Kill him!]"

Acts 21:40 NKJV - So when he had given him permission, Paul stood on the stairs and motioned with his hand to the people. And when there was a great silence, he spoke to [them] in the Hebrew language, saying,

Acts 22:1 NKJV - "Brethren and fathers, hear my defense before you now."
Acts 22:2 NKJV - And when they heard that he spoke to them in the Hebrew language, they kept all the more silent. Then he said:
Acts 22:3 NKJV - "I am indeed a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, taught according to the strictness of our fathers' law, and was zealous toward God as you all are today.
Acts 22:4 NKJV - "I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women,
Acts 22:5 NKJV - "as also the high priest bears me witness, and all the council of the elders, from whom I also received letters to the brethren, and went to Damascus to bring in chains even those who were there to Jerusalem to be punished.
Acts 22:6 NKJV - "Now it happened, as I journeyed and came near Damascus at about noon, suddenly a great light from heaven shone around me.
Acts 22:7 NKJV - "And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?'
Acts 22:8 NKJV - "So I answered, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said to me, 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.'

Saul/Paul proclaiming Jesus

Acts 22:9 NKJV - "And those who were with me indeed saw the light and were afraid, but they did not hear the voice of Him who spoke to me.
Acts 22:10 NKJV - "So I said, 'What shall I do, **Lord**?' And the Lord said to me, 'Arise and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all things which are appointed for you to do.'

We see in this that Saul/Paul changed his whole course of life. Ie he repented.

Acts 22:11 NKJV - "And since I could not see for the glory of that light, being led by the hand of those who were with me, I came into Damascus.
Acts 22:12 NKJV - "Then a certain Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good testimony with all the Jews who dwelt [there],
Acts 22:13 NKJV - "came to me; and he stood and said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight.' And at that same hour I looked up at him.
Acts 22:14 NKJV - "Then he said, 'The God of our fathers has chosen you that you should know His will, and see the Just One, and hear the voice of His mouth.
Acts 22:15 NKJV - 'For you will be His witness to all men of what you have seen and heard.
Acts 22:16 NKJV - **'And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'**
Acts 22:17 NKJV - "Now it happened, when I returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, that I was in a trance
Acts 22:18 NKJV - "and saw Him saying to me, 'Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, for they will not receive your testimony concerning Me.'
Acts 22:19 NKJV - "So I said, 'Lord, they know that in every synagogue I imprisoned and beat those who believe on You.
Acts 22:20 NKJV - 'And when the blood of Your martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by consenting to his death, and guarding the clothes of those who were killing him.'

Acts 22:21 NKJV - "Then He said to me, 'Depart, for I will send you far from here **to the Gentiles**.' "
Acts 22:22 NKJV - And they listened to him until this word, and [then] they raised their voices and said, "Away with such a [fellow] from the earth, for he is not fit to live!"
Acts 22:23 NKJV - Then, as they cried out and tore off [their] clothes and threw dust into the air,

Acts 22:30 NKJV - The next day, because he wanted to know for certain why he was accused by the Jews, he released him from [his] bonds, and commanded the chief priests and all their council to appear, and brought Paul down and set him before them.

Acts 23:6 NKJV - But when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, "Men [and] brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee; concerning the hope and resurrection of the dead I am being judged!"
Acts 23:7 NKJV - And when he had said this, a dissension arose between the Pharisees and the Sadducees; and the assembly was divided.
Acts 23:8 NKJV - For Sadducees say that there is no resurrection--and no angel or spirit; but the Pharisees confess both.
Acts 23:9 NKJV - Then there arose a loud outcry. **And the scribes of the Pharisees' party arose and protested, saying, "We find no evil in this man; but if a spirit or an angel has spoken to him, let us not fight against God."**
Acts 23:10 NKJV - Now when there arose a great dissension, the commander, fearing lest Paul might be pulled to pieces by them, commanded the soldiers to go down and take him by force from among them, and bring [him] into the barracks.

Acts 23:11 NKJV - But the following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Be of good cheer, Paul; for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome."

So God revealed to Paul he had a purpose for him. (Paul was emboldened to speak then to Felix confidently.)

Acts 23:12 NKJV - And when it was day, some of the Jews banded together and bound themselves under an oath, saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul.
Acts 23:13 NKJV - Now there were more than forty who had formed this conspiracy.
Acts 23:14 NKJV - They came to the chief priests and elders, and said, "We have bound ourselves under a great oath that we will eat nothing **until we have killed Paul**.
Acts 23:15 NKJV - "Now you, therefore, together with the council, suggest to the commander that he be brought down to you tomorrow, as though you were going to make further inquiries concerning him; but we are ready to kill him before he comes near."

Acts 23:23 NKJV - And he called for two centurions, saying, "Prepare two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen, and two hundred spearmen to go to Caesarea at the third hour of the night;
Acts 23:24 NKJV - "and provide mounts to set Paul on, and bring [him] safely to Felix the governor."
Acts 23:25 NKJV - He wrote a letter in the following manner:
Acts 23:26 NKJV - Claudius Lysias, To the most excellent governor Felix: Greetings.
Acts 23:27 NKJV - This man was seized by the Jews and was about to be killed by them. Coming with the troops I rescued him, having learned that he was a Roman.

Acts 23:28 NKJV - And when I wanted to know the reason they accused him, I brought him before their council.
Acts 23:29 NKJV - I found out that he was accused concerning questions of their law**, but had nothing charged against him deserving of death or chains.**
Acts 23:30 NKJV - And when it was told me that the Jews lay in wait for the man, I sent him immediately to you, and also commanded his accusers to state before you the charges against him. Farewell.

Paul's defense before Felix:

Acts 24:1 NKJV - Now after five days Ananias the high priest came down with the elders and a certain orator [named] Tertullus. These gave evidence to the governor against Paul.

> NIV - Five days later the high priest Ananias went down to Caesarea with some of the elders and a lawyer named Tertullus, and they brought their charges against Paul before the governor.

…
Acts 24:6 NKJV - "He even tried to profane the temple, and we seized him, and wanted to judge him according to our law.

A LIE!

Paul's defense before Felix:

Acts 24:14 NKJV - "But this I confess to you, **that according to the Way** which they call a sect, **so I worship the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the Law and in the Prophets.**
Acts 24:15 NKJV - **"I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of [the] dead, both of [the] just and [the] unjust.**
Acts 24:16 NKJV - "This [being] so, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men.

Acts 24:17 NKJV - "Now after many years I came to bring alms and offerings to my nation,
Acts 24:18 NKJV - "in the midst of which some Jews from Asia found me purified in the temple, neither with a mob nor with tumult.
Acts 24:19 NKJV - "They ought to have been here before you to object if they had anything against me.
Acts 24:20 NKJV - "Or else let those who are [here] themselves say if they found any wrongdoing in me while I stood before the council,
Acts 24:21 NKJV - "unless [it is] for this one statement which I cried out, standing among them, **'Concerning the resurrection of the dead I am being judged by you this day.' "**
Acts 24:22 NKJV - But when Felix heard these things, having more accurate knowledge of [the] Way, he adjourned the proceedings and said, "When Lysias the commander comes down, I will make a decision on your case."

Felix procrastinated in making a judgment… He delayed. But he also did NOT rule in favor of the Sadducees. And he kept Paul near him so he could have more private discussions with him:

Acts 24:23 NKJV - So he commanded the centurion to keep Paul and to let [him] have liberty, and told him not to forbid any of his friends to provide for or visit him.
Acts 24:24 NKJV - **And after some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and heard him concerning <u>the faith in Christ</u>.**
Acts 24:25 NKJV - Now as he reasoned about **righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come,** Felix was afraid and answered, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you."
Acts 24:26 NKJV - Meanwhile he also hoped that money would be given him by Paul, that he might release him. Therefore he sent for him more often and conversed with him.
Acts 24:27 NKJV - But after two years Porcius Festus succeeded Felix; and Felix, wanting to do the Jews a favor, left Paul bound.

Paul continues to witness to Festus and Agrippa:

Acts 26:15 NKJV - "So I said, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.
Acts 26:16 NKJV - 'But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you.
Acts 26:17 NKJV - 'I will deliver you from the [Jewish] people, as well as [from] the Gentiles, to whom I now send you,
Acts 26:18 NKJV - **'to open their eyes, [in order] to turn [them] from darkness to light, and [from] the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'**
Acts 26:19 NKJV - "Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,
Acts 26:20 NKJV - "but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and [then] to the Gentiles, **that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.**
Acts 26:21 NKJV - "For these reasons the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill [me].
Acts 26:22 NKJV - "Therefore, having obtained help from God, to this day I stand, witnessing both to small and great, saying no other things than those which the prophets and Moses said would come--
Acts 26:23 NKJV - "**that the Christ would suffer, that He would be the first to rise from the dead, and would proclaim light to the [Jewish] people and to the Gentiles.**"

Acts 26:28 NKJV - Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You almost persuade me to become a Christian."

Conclusion:
Through the study of Paul's dealings with Felix and others we see an example of how to boldly proclaim the Gospel to others.

<u>Additional Resources:</u>

From https://www.gotquestions.org/Sadducees-Pharisees.html

Given the Pharisees' and the Sadducees' differing view of Scripture, it's no surprise that they argued over certain doctrines. The Sadducees rejected a belief in the resurrection of the dead (Matthew 22:23; Mark 12:18–27; Acts 23:8), but the Pharisees did believe in the resurrection. The Sadducees denied the afterlife, holding that the soul perished at death, but the Pharisees believed in an afterlife and in an appropriate reward and punishment for individuals. The Sadducees rejected the idea of an unseen, spiritual world, but the Pharisees taught the existence of angels and demons in a spiritual realm.

Paul's Third Missionary Journey • AD 52–57 • Acts 18:23–21:16

TRAVELERS: Paul, Timothy, Luke, others

MAIN ROUTE: Turkey, Greece, Lebanon, Israel (2700 miles; 4,345 km)

CITIES/PLACES:

1. **Region of Galatia and Phrygia:** Paul decides to visit the churches again.
2. **Ephesus:** Paul stays here two years. He writes 1 Corinthians. So many people convert that the silversmiths who manufacture idols start a riot.
3. **Macedonia and Greece (Achaia):** Paul writes 2 Corinthians and Romans.
4. **Philippi (Macedonia) and Troas:** While Paul is preaching, a young man falls asleep, falls from a third-story window, and dies. Paul revives him.
5. **Assos, Mitylene (near Chios), Samos, Miletus:** Elders from Ephesus meet the ship at Miletus; Paul tells them he expects to be imprisoned in Jerusalem.
6. **Cos, Rhodes, Patara, Tyre:** Disciples warn Paul not to go to Jerusalem.
7. **Ptolemais and Caesarea:** A prophet predicts that Paul will be imprisoned and handed over to the Gentiles.
8. **Jerusalem:** The missionaries report to the church leaders, who urge Paul to participate in a purification ritual at the temple to counteract rumors that Christianity is anti-Jewish.

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