

FELIX TREMBLED

ACTS 24:24-25

Text: Acts 24:25

Acts 24:25 (KJV)

²⁵ And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.

Introduction:

Our text speaks of a man who experienced the power of a few words. Felix the Roman governor of Judea is listening to Paul preaching concerning the Christian faith. As Paul preached the Felix is moved by the words he hears.

1. THE WORDS CONFRONTED HIM

A. Paul reasoned or preached about ;

1. Righteousness

1a. The righteousness of God

Ezra 9:15 (KJV)

¹⁵ O LORD God of Israel, thou *art* righteous: for we remain yet escaped, as *it is* this day: behold, we *are* before thee in our trespasses: for we cannot stand before thee because of this.

Psalms 50:6 (KJV)

⁶ And the heavens shall declare his righteousness: for God *is* judge himself. Selah.

1 John 1:5 (KJV)

⁵ This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

1b. God hates sin

Romans 1:18 (KJV)

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

- What man calls an accident God calls abomination
- What man calls a blunder God calls blindness.
- What man calls error God calls enmity.
- What man calls a trifle God calls a tragedy.
- What man calls a weakness God calls wickedness.

Paul no doubt pointed out the truth that man is a sinner and stands condemned in the eyes of a righteous God.

Isaiah 64:6 (KJV)

⁶ But we are all as an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses *are* as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Romans 3:10-12 (KJV)

¹⁰ As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: ¹¹ There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. ¹² They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

1c. You can try to go to Heaven one of two ways – through self righteousness or the Savior’s righteousness.

2. THE WORDS CONCERNED HIM

A. The judgment to come

A day was coming that he would stand before God.

Romans 14:12 (KJV)

¹² So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

No doubt Paul reminded Felix of the wages of sin

Romans 3:23 (KJV)

²³ For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Psalms 9:17 (KJV)

¹⁷ The wicked shall be turned into hell, *and* all the nations that forget God.

Luke 16:19-31 (KJV)

¹⁹ There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: ²⁰ And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, ²¹ And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. ²² And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; ²³ And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. ²⁴ And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. ²⁵ But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. ²⁶ And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that *would come* from thence. ²⁷ Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: ²⁸ For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. ²⁹ Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. ³⁰ And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. ³¹ And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

1. Unquenchable fire

Mark 9:43 (KJV)

⁴³ And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:

Luke 16:24 (KJV)

²⁴ And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

2. Memory and remorse

Luke 16:25 (KJV)

²⁵ But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

Luke 16:27-28 (KJV)

²⁷ Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: ²⁸ For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

3. Intense and unsatisfied thirst

Luke 16:24-25 (KJV)

²⁴ And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. ²⁵ But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

4. Misery and pain

Luke 16:24-26 (KJV)

²⁴ And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. ²⁵ But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted,

and thou art tormented. ²⁶ And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that *would come* from thence.

Revelation 14:10-11 (KJV)

¹⁰ The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: ¹¹ And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

5. Frustration and anger

Luke 13:28 (KJV)

²⁸ There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you *yourselves* thrust out.

Matthew 24:51 (KJV)

⁵¹ And shall cut him asunder, and appoint *him* his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

6. Eternal separation

Revelation 21:8 (KJV)

⁸ But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

2 Thessalonians 1:8-9 (KJV)

⁸ In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: ⁹ Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

What Felix heard caused him to tremble.

3. THE WORDS CONDEMNED HIM

What a tragedy – It was the words of God the convicted him, but the words from his own lips that condemned him.

Acts 24:25 (KJV)

²⁵ And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.