

Dec. 21-26

**Monday, December 21, 2009** *Read: Acts 23:23-35* This is Paul's situation – He was not charged with any specific crime against Roman law but has been remanded to a higher governmental authority. But sending Paul on to Felix helps rid Claudius of a big problem. **Prayer starter: Do you know anyone who suffers unjustly? Pray for them today.**

**Tuesday, December 22, 2009** *Read: Acts 24:1-16* Note that even as Paul refutes the charges made against him, he also manages to give testimony of Christ and of His resurrection – a fact which the Chief Priest cannot deny. No matter the problem, Paul never loses sight of his goal: proclaim the resurrected Christ! **Prayer starter: Ask God to give you boldness as you invite someone to Christmas Eve or Christmas Day worship.**

**Wednesday, December 23, 2009** *Read: Acts 24:17-27* As much as he liked listening to Paul, Felix wasn't interested in really learning about the new life in Christ. Meanwhile, Paul spent two years languishing in prison. Think of how Paul's faith was tested as he waited for a decision. **Prayer starter: Do you have a friend whose faith is being tested? Encourage them today.**

**Thursday, December 24, 2009** *Read: Acts 25:1-12* As a Roman citizen, Paul had every right to appeal to Caesar. He was not trying to evade justice but neither did he have to submit to injustice. The emperor at this time was Nero. **Prayer starter: It's Christmas Eve! If you have a hymnbook, pray the words from "O Little Town of Bethlehem."**

**Friday, December 25, 2009** *Read: Acts 25:13-27* Festus has a bit of a problem – he cannot send Paul to Rome without charges. He doesn't know what crime to charge Paul because he is innocent. However, Paul has asked to be sent to Rome and so to Rome he will go. **Prayer starter: Pray today the words from Philippians 2:5-11. Merry Christmas!**

**Saturday, December 26, 2009** *Read: Acts 26:1-18* Read the promise the Lord makes to people like Paul (and you and me) in Luke 21:12-15. Where does Paul receive the courage to offer his testimony? The power of the Holy Spirit! **Prayer starter: Thank God for the grace and forgiveness you have received through the Christ child.**