

Our Sovereign Defence
Text: Acts Acts 25:1-12
February 28, 2026

Big Idea:

Context is key!

Question #1 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What is going on in the text?

- a) What is the setting and what is happening?
- b) Who are the main characters?
- c) Are there any words/phrases that are repeated?

Question #2

- a) Do you find it hard to trust God to defend you as you live for Him? Why or why not?

God defends His witness, so stand firm in His...

Point 1: _____ of You (vv. 1-5)

Question: God's placement is for your protection. Will you trust Him and stay faithful there?

Sermon Notes...

Prideful Overestimation...

i) I see the _____

ii) I know the _____

iii) I am _____ for what I want

Question #3

- a) **Rd vv. 1-5:** How did God sovereignly use prison to protect Paul?
- b) If you were in Paul's shoes, do you think that you would be tempted to complain about where God has placed you? Why or why not?
- c) Which of the 3 fruits of pride-fuelled overestimation do you struggle with the most (or all of them!)? Why that one?
- d) What happens when we choose to follow those?
- e) Spend time in prayer and repentance over that area; and ask God for strength to trust Him.

God defends His witness, so stand firm in His...

Point 2: _____ in You (vv. 6-8)

Question: Integrity is God's defence against credible accusation. Are you living above reproach?

Sermon Notes...

Question #4

- a) **Rd vv. 6-8:** How do the Jews try to intimidate Paul and lie to Festus about Paul?
- b) Even though Paul was accused of things, what did God use to defend him against the accusations?
- c) **Rd. Acts 24:16:** What is a clear conscience, and what does it mean to 'take pains' to live with it?
- d) How is living with a clear conscience, the same as living with the purity of Jesus?
- e) **Be honest:** What area(s) are you currently not living with a clear conscience before God?
- f) Spend time in prayer and repentance for those areas. Also, speak about at least one practical next step you will take this week in Christ's power, to walk in the purity of Jesus in that area.

God defends His witness, so and firm in His...

Point 3: **PURPOSE** for You (vv. 9-12)

Question: God's purposes will not be thwarted. Will you leverage your life for the kingdom?
Sermon Notes...

Question #5

- a) **Rd vv. 9-12:** How is God protecting Paul through the purpose He had for Paul (**Hint:** Acts 23:11)?
- b) How did Paul leverage his Roman citizenship to see the gospel advance to the ends of the earth?
- c) Why should it comfort us that, as Christians, we cannot die until God's work for us is done?
- d) How should that truth embolden us to passionately live for the sake of Jesus' Name?
- e) What part (s) of your life right now, can you leverage in greater measure for the kingdom of God?
- f) Pray for the Lord to empower and accomplish His good work in and through you in that area!

Question #6

How is the person and work of Jesus the greatest sovereign defence that the Lord has given to us...

- a) For SALVATION (**Hint:** Romans 5:8)
- b) For TRANSFORMATION (**Hint:** 2 Corinthians 3:18)

Prayer Application

Spend time as a group or in accountability praying out of **Acts 25:1-12...**

- a) **ADORATION:** Jesus, You are my sovereign defender who_____.
- b) **CONFESSION:** Jesus, I repent of my unbelief that You will defend me when_____.
- c) **THANKSGIVING:** Jesus, I thank you for defending me against_____.
- d) **SUPPLICATION:** Jesus, I ask for faith to leverage _____ for your Kingdom.

Memory Verse:

"This God-his way is perfect; the word of the LORD proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him."-Psalm 18:30