

WOMEN OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

THREE POWERFUL WOMEN

Pray and ask God to help you to know Him better as you study His Word.

Read the Bible passage (preferably without using commentaries).

Begin to answer the questions using your own words.

Questions are based on the New International Version (NIV) 2011 edition.

LESSON 22

1. What truth, verse or insight from last week's study of the **Pisidian Antioch Women and Damaris** was helpful to you?

SECTION I: Read Matthew 27:11-26

2. Describe the exchange as Jesus stood before the governor in **V11-14**.
3. a) What was the governor's custom, and what was the choice he gave the crowd, according to **V15-17**?

b) What did Pilate know in **V18**, and why is that significant?
4. a) According to **V19**, where was Pilate, and what strikes you about the timing when he received the message from his wife?

b) What truth about Jesus did she recognize? Take creative license; how do you think she may have suffered for Him in her dream?
5. a) Given the momentum of the Jewish leaders and the crowd, what character trait(s) do you see in Pilate's wife?

b) Whose ear do you have, and what message is the Lord asking you to deliver?
6. What happened in **V20-23**?
7. Read what took place in **V24-26**. Was Pilate truly "innocent of this man's blood"? Why or why not?

SECTION II: Read Acts 24

8. a) What event was under way in **V1-9**? Identify those who were involved, and their roles.
- b) What were the accusations leveled against Paul in **V5-6**?
9. Read **V10-21** as Paul gave his defense against these accusations.
- a) What evidence did Paul give that shows the case against him was not legitimate? (**V10-13** & **17-18**)
- b) What did Paul admit to believing in **V14-15**?
- c) From **V21**, what did Paul see was the real reason he was on trial? (For more detail, see **23:6-11**.)
10. What did Felix do after he heard Paul, and what orders did he give in **V22-23**?
11. a) From **V24a**, who accompanied Felix, and what do you learn about her?
- b) According to **V24a-25b**, what truths were Drusilla and Felix exposed to?
12. a) What can you surmise about Felix's character from his responses in **V22-27**?
- b) Have you ever given similar responses, or like Paul, have you received them? Explain.
13. What can you possibly deduce about Drusilla as you contrast how Pilate's wife responded to truth?

SECTION III: Read Acts 25-26

14. a) In **25:1-12**, Paul's trial continued before _____ and in **V11**, he appealed to _____.
- b) In **25:13-22**, who arrived, and what interests you about how they were brought into the dispute?
- c) In **25:23**, describe King Agrippa's and Bernice's arrival. What does that say about them?

15. What is notable about Festus' take on Paul from **25:24-27**?

16. As Paul gave his defense, he folded in his powerful testimony (**26:1-23**). What most stands out to you from:

V18 _____

V20b _____

Other verses from **V1-23** _____

17. From **26:24-29**, after hearing Paul's testimony, recount the response to him by:

Festus _____

King Agrippa _____

18. How did Festus, Agrippa, and Bernice respond to all they had seen and heard that day, in **V30-32**?

19. Both Jesus' words and Paul's testimony were to the "small and great alike" (**26:22**). These three women represent the powerful or "great."

a) What lessons do you learn from any "good" in their stories?

b) What warnings will you take from any "bad or ugly" examples?

20. Write a prayer request from any aspect of this lesson.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Paul preached so that all "should repent, turn to God and demonstrate repentance by their deeds." Write what these verses teach you about repentance in your own life:

Proverbs 1:23 _____

Isaiah 30:15 _____

Jeremiah 26:2-3 _____

Luke 15:7 _____

Acts 2:36-38 _____

A favorite verse on repentance _____

2. Do you think repentance is a feeling or an action or some combination? Explain your answer.

3. Read **Psalms 10:4-6**. How does this tie into the characters in this week's lesson?

4. Suggested Memory Verse: **Acts 26:18**

