

# NOW OR NEVER!

## A STUDY ON PROCRASTINATION

**ILLUSTRATION // Who in the room is someone who is always procrastinating?  
(Tell a story of a time where you procrastinated....)**

**Im going to share about how I used to always procrastinate writing papers in college but somehow I would always do my best work at the last possible moment and get a good grade on the paper.**

**Tie in: Tonight we are going to learn about a man who heard the Truth of God and choose time and time again to procrastinate instead of act on it, when he heard the message of Jesus.**

- Tonight the title of the message is NOW OR NEVER!
- Because it is important to realize that the time is now too act on what we know to be true... That Jesus died on the cross for our sins and that He is coming back again.
- This is a message that needs to be shared because tomorrow is never promised.

### **Context:**

- At this time in the Bible there were False accusations being brought on Paul during his public ministry by Jewish religious leaders of the day.
- Paul decides to return to Jerusalem and Jewish Leaders from Ephesus stir up the crowd against him resulting in His arrest.
- Paul then begins his journey through the Jewish and Roman legal systems by being sent under armed guard to Felix who was the corrupt and immoral Roman governor of Judea.
- Felix was hoping that Paul would bribe him to be set free, but something entirely different happened.

- Lets start reading with Pauls initial response to Felix questioning him...

**SCRIPTURE // Acts 24:20-27 pg.**

**20 Ask these men here what crime the Jewish high council[c] found me guilty of, 21 except for the one time I shouted out, ‘I am on trial before you today because I believe in the resurrection of the dead!’” 22 At that point Felix, who was quite familiar with the Way, adjourned the hearing and said, “Wait until Lysias, the garrison commander, arrives. Then I will decide the case.” 23 He ordered an officer[d] to keep Paul in custody but to give him some freedom and allow his friends to visit him and take care of his needs.**

**24 A few days later Felix came back with his wife, Drusilla, who was Jewish. Sending for Paul, they listened as he told them about faith in Christ Jesus. 25 As he reasoned with them about righteousness and self-control and the coming day of judgment, Felix became frightened. “Go away for**

now,” he replied. “When it is more convenient, I’ll call for you again.” 26 He also hoped that Paul would bribe him, so he sent for him quite often and talked with him.

27 After two years went by in this way, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus. And because Felix wanted to gain favor with the Jewish people, he left Paul in prison.

## **MAIN IDEA // SHARE YOUR FAITH CONSTANTLY AND CONFIDENTLY**

-This is something that Paul did on a regular basis despite what circumstance he was in.

-Even while in prison Paul choose to share his faith with consistent confidence knowing that people knowing Jesus mattered more than anything He was going through.

## **POINT 1 // PERSERVERNCE PRODUCES ACTION**

ILLUSTRATION // Share a time when something moved you to action or a time when you had to preserver through a hard situation.

Im going to share about a time when I used to play football and 2 a day practices happened in August and I knew that I had to get up early and preserve through all the rough practices and weight lifting sessions in order to produce on the field. Through my perseverance I was lead to action.

- Even though Paul was not greeted very well the first time He shared with Felix He continued to share the Gospel of Jesus and the day that Jesus will return with Felix so much so that he became frightened and was moved to stop their meeting.
  - Acts 24:25
- Paul shows us a great example of how to preserve through the struggles and pressures of school and friends and to push through the fear of being judged by your peers and just simply share the Gospel with them.
- This is because believe it or not, the truth of Gods word produces action.

## POINT 2 // PROCRASTINATION LEADS TO PROBLEMS

-Time and time again Paul shared the Gospel with Felix but time and time again He procrastinated and ultimately choose to leave Paul in Jail and choose to not give his life to the Lord.

-Many people only want to hear the truth when it is convenient for them just like Felix says in verse 25 and 26.

“Go away for now,” he replied. “When it is more convenient, I’ll call for you again.” **26** He also hoped that Paul would bribe him, so he sent for him quite often and talked with him.

- Who has ever heard the term: “The Truth Hurts.” ??
- Well the truth is sometimes it does. When some people first hear about the truth that is only found in Jesus it causes them to second guess a lot of things.
- It can cause confusion and can even cause them to feel pain because they realize that life is not all about them any more it is about Jesus and living a life of humility.
- Living a life for Jesus means dying to your self and your own selfish desires and choose to live for Jesus and the desires that He has for your life. It takes sacrifice and humility which is something that many of us struggle with.

- But there is such a great reward when we choose to live for Christ each and every day... we get to spend eternity with Jesus in Heaven.
- Just like Paul we need to share the Gospel with as many people as we can because we want as many people as possible with us in heaven.
- We have to act Now or unfortunately you may never get another chance....
- Who knows if Paul ever got to see Felix again and we won't ever know if he turned his heart to Jesus but we do know that Paul made the most of the time he had with Felix by sharing the gospel with him.
- Will you do the same and take action like Paul or will you procrastinate like Felix?

-Remember guys the time to share the gospel is NOW because you NEVER know when you will get another chance to.

## **ALTAR**

- Give call for salvation!
- Have students who are struggling to share their faith talk to a leader and pray with them
- Pray for students who have been procrastinating about sharing the gospel with others.