

The Acts of the Apostles

Lecture 26: Chapter 28

Chapter 28:1-10 – Life on Malta after the shipwreck

Malta – about 60 miles south of Sicily (c. 500 west from when storm hit)

islanders – lit. “barbarians” i.e., non-Greeks

unusual kindness – again, on the part of pagans (a “theme” in Luke)

gathered a pile of brushwood – a small insight into his character

...to serve & not be served

Application: We each have unique gifts and abilities, but regardless of those gifts, all are called to _____ a _____ wherever they can in the work of the body of Christ.

a viper...must be a murderer – a poisonous snake / fate & justice in this life

(not biblical!)

Publius...his father was sick – more kindness...God heals Publius’ father

through Paul

the rest of the sick...were cured – (cf. “therapeutic”) the first medical mission?

(& Dr. Luke)

Chapter 28:11-16 – They arrive in Rome

After three months – sailing season began Feb. 7

figurehead of the twin gods – guardian deity for sailors / a jab at their uselessness?

Syracuse...Rhegium...Puteoli – capital of Sicily...the “toe” of the boot...

Rome’s harbor

brothers...spend a week with them – sign of relationship w/Paul & Centurion Julius

Rome...brothers...meet us – Gk: the word for an “official delegation” sent

Forum of Appius – c. 40 miles outside Rome, on the famous Appian Way

live by himself – under “house” arrest, but w/ a guard...free to have visitors!

Application: Even bold _____ was blessed by the presence and encouragement of fellow believers. Our _____ and _____ of one another in God’s family is crucial!

Chapter 28:17-31 – In Rome: Paul’s ministry as a prisoner

leaders of the Jews – as before, to the Jews first – then Gentiles
(Jews expelled/allowed in Rome)

I have done nothing against our people – presents own defense...
then shares Gospel (cf. Gal.)

the hope of Israel – something they all shared in / common-ground

I am bound with this chain – the reality that it is a house “arrest”

meet Paul on a certain day – large numbers come to him

they disagreed – as before, not only Paul’s journeys, but the OT story!
(cf. Isaiah quote)

for two whole years...without hindrance – Paul has a safe / legal place
to promote the Gospel

he preached...and taught – and wrote...Philippians, Colossians, Philemon,
possibly Ephesians

What next? ...eventually acquitted (2 Tim. 4:17)

...worked on Crete & installed Titus there (Titus 1:5)

...revisited Miletus (2 Tim. 4:20) Troas (2 Tim. 4:13)

& Macedonia (1 Tim. 1:3)

...perhaps Spain (Rom. 15:24,28)

...a second imprisonment in Rome /

wrote 2 Timothy / expecting execution (2 Tim. 4:6-8)

...ancient sources say he was beheaded in Rome c. AD 66

Application: It is easy to become so _____ -centered that we give no thought to sharing Christ and His love with others, especially in times of personal turmoil. Paul shows us the way of _____ and _____ that comes in sharing the love of Christ in any and every situation of life!