

Acts 28:1-16

This session I want us to discuss a few themes that stand out in this passage.

1. The blessing of hospitality. Vs 2,7,14-15

What are some signs that you are welcome in a situation?

The apostle and his companions have been through so much- the Lord pours blessing upon blessing upon them through others. What a wonderful feeling it must have been to receive kindness and smiles and provision from others.

To receive eternal life, one must be hospitable to the Lord Jesus. Rom. 3:21-25a. Rev. 3:19,20

Jesus instructed his disciples to remain where they are welcomed. Matt. 10:11-14, 40-42

What are the good things that happen when we have a welcoming disposition?

2. Abiding in God's Protection. Verse 3-6

The apostle was doing the next good thing. Serving and helping. He is bitten by a snake that was apparently poisonous.

This is now the third time on this journey Paul's life was threatened or in danger. On the ship, exiting the ship and now on the beach. Yet God has a plan for his life, nothing can harm him apart from it passing through God's sovereign hands.

There is a spiritual dimension to this- again, Satan would love to stop Paul from preaching before the Emperor or anyone else. May we never forget that there is spiritual opposition when serving Christ. Daniel 10:12-14; Mark 16:15-18; Ephesians 6:10-20

Psalm 91; Psalm 31:14-17

Like this serpent that Paul threw in the fire, one Day Satan Himself will be throne into the Lake of Fire. Revelation 20:7-10

3. Responding wisely to delays and wrong turns. Vs 7-11

It is important to process changes in our schedule with wisdom and faith. It begins by confessing to the Lord that the day ahead is His day and asking Him to order our steps. It is important then to live our lives in accordance with his wisdom.

Last week we saw how bad decision making had caused great loss for the pilot of the ship and the ship owners. God spared everyone's lives on behalf of Paul. Paul was living for God, honoring Him with his life. God used the bad decisions of the "experts", to further the gospel message. If it hadn't been for the storm, many people on the island of Malta would not have been healed and would not have heard the gospel.

What do you think is required to be able to respond calmly to changing plans and the timing of events?

John 5:17: "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working."
Henry Blackaby, "Find out where and how God is working and join him in it."

Proverbs 19:21 _____

Psalm 1 _____

Romans 8:28 _____