

ACTS

of the Holy Spirit

Session #38 – 28:1 – 28:31

I. Paul Ministry in Malta (28:1 - 10)

Verse 1

Once safely on shore,
we found out that the island
was called Malta. (“refuge”)

Verse 2

The islanders (barbaros = barbarians – those who do not speak Greek) showed us unusual kindness.
They built a fire
and welcomed us all
because it was raining and cold.

Verse 3

Paul gathered a pile of brushwood
and, as he put it on the fire,
a viper, driven out by the heat,
fastened itself on his hand.

Verse 4

When the islanders saw the snake
hanging from his hand,
they said to each other,
*“This man must be a murderer;
for though he escaped from the sea,
the goddess Justice (Dikee)
has not allowed him to live.”*



Verse 5

But Paul shook the snake off
into the fire
and suffered no ill effects.

Miraculous Sign #1

Verse 6

The people expected him 1) to swell up
or 2) suddenly fall dead;
but after waiting a long time
and seeing nothing unusual happen to him,
they changed their minds
and said he was a god.

Note: Luke the author, being a doctor would know if this was a true miracle or not.

Verse 7

There was an estate nearby
that belonged to Publius, (Latin – “popular”)
the chief official of the island.

He welcomed us to his home
and showed us generous hospitality (xenizo = courteous
entertainment) for three days.

Verse 8

His father was sick in bed,
suffering from fever
and dysentery.
Paul went in to see him
and, after prayer, placed his hands on him
and healed him.

Miraculous Sign #2

Verse 9

When this had happened,
the rest of the sick on the island came
and were cured.

Miraculous Sign #3

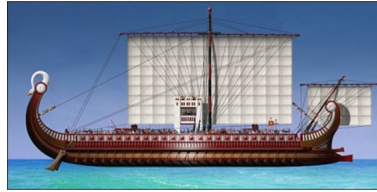
Verse 10

They honored (timao = fix value) us in many ways;
and when we were ready to sail,
1 they furnished us with the supplies we needed.

II. Paul Sails to Rome (28:11 - 15)

Verse 11

After three months
we put out to sea in a ship
that had wintered in the island—
it was an Alexandrian ship
with the figurehead of the twin gods
Castor and Pollux.



Verse 12

We put in at Syracuse
and stayed there three days.
Syracuse is the capital of
Sicily.



Verse 13

From there we set sail
and arrived at Rhegium.
The next day the south wind came up,
and on the following day we reached Puteoli.



Verse 14

There we found some brothers [and sisters]
who invited us to spend a week with them.
And so we came to Rome.



Verse 15

The brothers [and sisters] there
had heard that we were coming,
and they traveled as far as
the Forum of Appius [43 miles]
and the Three Taverns to meet us.
At the sight of these people
Paul thanked God
and was encouraged.

III. Paul at Rome (28:16 - 31)

Verse 16

When we got to Rome,
Paul was allowed to live by himself,
with a soldier to guard him.

Verse 17

Three days later
he called together the local Jewish leaders.
When they had assembled,
Paul said to them:

*“My brothers,
although I have done nothing against our people
or against the customs of our ancestors,
I was arrested in Jerusalem
and handed over to the Romans.*

Verse 18

*They examined me
and wanted to release me,
because I was not guilty of any crime
deserving death.*

Verse 19

*The Jews objected,
so I was compelled to make an appeal to Caesar.
I certainly did not intend
to bring any charge against my own people.*

Paul let the Jews know that he was NOT filing a countersuit
against the Jews who had him arrested.

Verse 20

*For this reason
I have asked to see you
and talk with you.
It is because of the hope of Israel [Israel's Messiah]
that I am bound with this chain.”*

Verse 21

They replied,
*“We have not received any letters
from Judea
concerning you,
and none of our people
who have come from there
has reported or said anything bad about you.*

Verse 22

*But we want to hear what your views are,
for we know that people everywhere
are talking against this sect.” [The Way]*

Verse 23

They arranged to meet Paul
on a certain day,
and came in even larger numbers
to the place where he was staying.
He witnessed to them from morning till evening,
explaining about 1) the kingdom of God,
and from 2) the Law of Moses
and from 3) the Prophets
he tried to persuade them about Jesus.

Verse 24

Some were convinced by what he said,
but others would not believe.

Verse 25

They disagreed among themselves
and began to leave
after Paul had made this final statement:
“The Holy Spirit spoke the truth
to your ancestors
when he said
through Isaiah the prophet:

Verse 26

“ ‘Go to this people and say,
“You will be ever hearing
but never understanding;
you will be ever seeing
but never perceiving.”

Isaiah 6:9-10

Verse 27

For this people’s heart
has become calloused; (pachyno = thick/stupid)
they hardly (bareos = heavy) hear with their ears,
and they have closed (kammyo = obstinate)
their eyes.

Otherwise [they had the opportunity]
they might 1) see with their eyes,
2) hear with their ears,
3) understand with their hearts
and 4) turn, (epistrepho = to return to God)
and [then] I would heal them.’ (iaomai = bring to
salvation – wholeness – completeness in holiness with God)

Verse 28

“Therefore
I want you to know
that God’s salvation
has been sent to the Gentiles,
and they will listen!”

God has not
limited
Salvation to the
Gentiles, but
rather to those
who will listen!

Verse 29

[And when he had said these words,
The Jews departed,
having much disputes among themselves.]

Variant

The preacher of the gospel preaches two messages: 1) Life to
those who will receive the truth, and 2) Destruction to those who
reject the truth. The truth divides.

Verse 30

For two whole years

Paul stayed there in his own rented house
and welcomed all
who came to see him.

Verse 31

He proclaimed the kingdom of God
and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—
with all boldness (parresia = freedom/openness/plainly)
and without hindrance! (akolytos = stopping for any reason)

The parable of the Feast – Matt. 22:1-14

First invitation = Jesus' invitation – they would not come.

Second invitation = Apostles' invitation – they would not come.

They killed the messengers!

Finally, invited the crowd to come dressed in Christ! (Gentiles)

Wrote:
Ephesians,
Philippians,
and
Colossians
during this
time!

What Happened to Paul Later?

- Paul's hearing before Caesar Nero - @61AD
- Paul was released (according to Eusebius)
- Paul travels to Spain (according to Clement)
- Paul's Fourth Missionary Journey
- Paul ministers in Macedonia (I and II Timothy, Titus)
- Paul is arrested again (where? When?)
- Transported back to Rome
- This time placed in the Mamertine Prison
(II Tim. 1:16-17)
- Luke is still with him
(II Tim. 4:11)
- Nero had Paul beheaded
before his death in 68AD

