

A STORM, A SNAKE, AND SICKNESS | Week of 9/11

Acts 28:1-10



Last Week Summary: Paul began his voyage to Rome on a ship with other prisoners and a couple of friends. They encounter a hurricane and give up all hope. Paul receives encouragement from the Lord and they eventually make it safely ashore. We learned that: (1) If I anchor my life in God's Word I can have faith things will happen like God said; (2) I can be anchored and have security in God's ownership (the God whose I am); (3) I can be anchored in my service to God (the God whom I serve).

Questions:

1. Have you ever found yourself in a situation where strangers offered you unexpected kindness? How did you respond? Did you use the opportunity to witness for Christ?
2. When have other Christians welcomed you in a way that brought encouragement and hope to your life? How did you respond? Did you thank God for bringing these people into your life?
3. Although Paul could have sat and let others tend the fire, he was up gathering wood. What does this say about the type of person Paul was? Are you more likely to be involved, or sit back and let others do the work?
4. Have you ever been bitten by a snake or any other creature? Have you ever witnessed something bad happen to someone and wondered if they deserved it?
5. What does the Bible say about why bad things happen?

6. What effect might Paul's snakebite have on Centurion Julius's opinion of Paul? What stories might Julius tell his fellow officers when he arrived in Rome?
7. Do you think Paul would have gained an audience with the islanders to share the Gospel if these difficult events had not happened?
8. How does John 16:33 apply to the life of Paul? Has God ever used a disaster in your life to strengthen your faith or the faith of others?
9. Read Luke 10:19-20. Did Paul fulfill this Scripture?
10. Parts of life could be compared to a football game. When you get hit, the game is not over; you get up and keep going. Are hard times an indication of God's displeasure? Are good times an indication of God's pleasure?
11. In this passage we see God's faithfulness. He works through shipwrecks and snakebites and provides a way for Paul to get an audience with the islanders to share the Gospel. This is Romans 8:28 in action. How does this realization strengthen your faith?

Next Steps:

- I will look for opportunities to allow God to use me even in difficult circumstances.
- Rather than a vacation of R&R, I will prayerfully consider a vacation of service.
- I am thankful God can redeem even the darkest of days and the most difficult people.