

First Baptist Church of Progress Village
Wednesday Bible Study
Acts of The Apostles – Chapter 28
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Keyphrase: The right gifts at the right opportunity.

I. Paul is continuously tested.

Acts 28:1-3 (KJV) *And when they were escaped, then they knew that the island was called Melita. And the barbarous people shewed us no little kindness: for they kindled a fire, and received us every one, because of the present rain, and because of the cold. And when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid them on the fire, there came a viper out of the heat, and fastened on his hand.*

A. The viper bite should have been painful and scary, but it was also an opportunity.

As believers today we need to remember that all things work together for Good. NOT all good things work!

Acts 28:4 (KJV) *And when the barbarians saw the venomous beast hang on his hand, they said among themselves, No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he hath escaped the sea, yet vengeance suffereth not to live.*

B. The unfair judgment was an opportunity.

Acts 28:5-6 (KJV) *And he shook off the beast into the fire, and felt no harm. Howbeit they looked when he should have swollen, or fallen down dead suddenly: but after they had looked a great while, and saw no harm come to him, they changed their minds, and said that he was a god.*

C. The pedestal of praise (deification) was an opportunity.

Verse 3 was a natural event,

Verse 4 was a human event of people judging him

Verse 5 was a supernatural event

Verse 6 was a human event of people erroneously assigning

What does that all lead up to for Paul and the Gospel? OPPORTUNITY

Acts 28:3,5 *And when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid them on the fire, there came a viper out of the heat, and fastened on his hand... 5 And he shook off the beast into the fire, and felt no harm.*

Jesus dealt with this with the 70. He taught them with these words,

Luke 10:17-20 (KJV) *And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and*

scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

Don't ever lose sight of the end game!

D. The strength of God is for **salvation** of men, not **pride** for those who wield it.

People out looking for trouble to prove they have power or faith are not giving God glory, but for their own glory.

II. Paul continuously **spreads** the Gospel.

Acts 28:7-10 (KJV) *In the same quarters were possessions of the chief man of the island, whose name was Publius; who received us, and lodged us three days courteously. And it came to pass, that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and of a bloody flux: to whom Paul entered in, and prayed, and laid his hands on him, and healed him. So when this was done, others also, which had diseases in the island, came, and were healed: Who also honoured us with many honours; and when we departed, they laded us with such things as were necessary.*

A. The miracles, signs and wonders were to an **UNBELIEVING** "barbarous" people

B. **Faith**, endurance and **humility** led to **provision** and honor.

Acts 28:11-12 (KJV) *And after three months we departed in a ship of Alexandria, which had wintered in the isle, whose sign was Castor and Pollux. And landing at Syracuse, we tarried there three days.*

In Greek mythology, "Castor and Pollux" were the names of the twin sons of Zeus and were revered as the protectors of men on the sea.

Acts 28:13-15 (KJV) *And from thence we fetched a compass, and came to Rhegium: and after one day the south wind blew, and we came the next day to Puteoli: Where we found brethren, and were desired to tarry with them seven days: and so we went toward Rome. And from thence, when the brethren heard of us, they came to meet us as far as Appii forum, and The three taverns: whom when Paul saw, he thanked God, and took courage.*

C. First time Paul sets foot in Italy, there are already churches established and people coming to greet him!

Acts 28:16 (KJV) *And when we came to Rome, the centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard: but Paul was suffered to dwell by himself with a soldier that kept him.*

D. God's man finds favor in the middle of a world who does not yet know who God.

People who know, go to people who need to know Jesus!

Next Week Read Final Chapter of Acts 28 – Wrap Up