November 8, 2026



Sermon Notes

Acts 28:23–31 (ESV)

[23]When they had appointed a day for him, they came to him at his lodging in greater numbers. From morning till evening he expounded to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets.
[24]And some were convinced by what he said, but others disbelieved.
[25]And disagreeing among themselves, they departed after Paul had made one statement: "The Holy Spirit was right in saying to your fathers through Isaiah the prophet:
[26]"'Go to this people, and say, "You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive."
[27]For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed; lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.'
[28]Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen."
[30]He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him,
[31]proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.
Some manuscripts add verse 29: And when he had said these words, the Jews departed, having much dispute among themselves

(Answer key located on the last page)

BIG IDEA — *You may be locked up, but you don't have to be shut up. When life boxes you in, God can still use you right where you're stuck.*

I. Persistence in Proclamation: Prison Becomes a Pulpit

Acts 28:23–24 (ESV)

From morning till evening, Paul made it plain, made it personal, and made a _____.

Paul's job was faithfulness, not _____.
The Holy Spirit does the persuading.

Paul was chained, but his message was not: "the word of God is not _____!" (2 Timothy 2:9).

God turned Paul's captivity into a captive _____.

The place where you feel stuck may be the exact place God has _____ you.

APPLICATION: This week, pray, "Lord, show me one person here who needs hope." Then give them one word of hope: a text, a call, or "Can I pray for you?"

II. Personal Reactions: Planting Hope When People Push Back

Acts 28:25–27 (ESV)

It's not an ear problem; it's a _____ problem.

"Their eyes they have closed." It's not that they couldn't see. They chose not to _____.

Even in a warning, God's heart is to _____ (v. 27).

The farmer doesn't control the soil. He just keeps _____ (Luke 8:4–15).

Your job isn't to drag people out of bed. Your job is to keep _____.

APPLICATION: Write down the name of one person you've given up on. Put it on your mirror. Pray for them every day for 30 days. Then leave the rest to God.

III. Promise of Proclamation: Prison Walls Can't Pen In God's Power *Acts 28:28–31 (ESV)*

Unbelief can delay a person's blessing, but it cannot _____ God's plan.

For "two whole years," Paul turned his waiting room into a _____ room.

A chained man with the Gospel is _____ than a free man without it (John 8:36).

"Without hindrance" is the very last word of Acts. Paul is bound, but the Gospel is _____.

There are 28 chapters in Acts, and chapter _____ is being written right now.

APPLICATION: In the next two weeks, invite one person over for a meal, or to church. Then just tell them what Jesus has done for you. You don't have to preach a sermon (Mark 5:19).

PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Where is my "house arrest," the place I feel stuck? Who is the "Roman guard" God has placed beside me? Whose name have I quietly given up on? Is my door open, or have I kept the Gospel inside the building?

Answer Key

I. Persistence in Proclamation: Prison Becomes a Pulpit

plea | results | bound | audience | put

II. Personal Reactions: Planting Hope When People Push Back

heart | look | heal | sowing | ringing

III. Promise of Proclamation: Prison Walls Can't Pen In God's Power

derail | worship | freer | unhindered | 29

The Good News

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, (Romans 5:1)

The Bad News

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
(Romans 3:23)

The Ugly News

For the wages of sin is death, … (Romans 6:23a)

The Great News

··· but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
(Romans 6:23a)

Guess What?

You can become a Christian right now and experience salvation and the gift of eternal life through God's Son the Lord Jesus Christ! Simply Pray this Prayer Right Now! **"God thank you for Jesus Christ who died on the cross for my sins. Thank you for receiving what Jesus did for me on the cross as payment for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins. Right now I accept Jesus into my heart and ask that he become my Savior and Lord! Amen!"**

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. (Romans 10:9–10)

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