

October 4, 2026



Sermon Notes

(Answer key located on the back page)

Acts 28:1–6 (ESV)

¹After we were brought safely through, we then learned that the island was called Malta.

²The native people showed us unusual kindness, for they kindled a fire and welcomed us all, because it had begun to rain and was cold.

³When Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and put them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened on his hand.

⁴When the native people saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, “No doubt this man is a murderer. Though he has escaped from the sea, Justice has not allowed him to live.”

⁵He, however, shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm.

⁶They were waiting for him to swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But when they had waited a long time and saw no misfortune come to him, they changed their minds and said that he was a god.

BIG IDEA — *God brings His servants through storm and serpent — so shake it off, and let His glory show.*

I. Stranded But Safe: Trust That God Keeps His Word in Your Storm Acts 28:1 (ESV)

Luke says, “we were brought safely through.” The Greek word diasōzō means to _____ completely, all the way through danger.

Storms may delay God’s plans, but they cannot _____ them.

APPLICATION

Write down the name of one person you have met because of your hardship. This week, pray for that person by name and do one kind thing for them.

II. Shelter in Kindness: Receive Kindness, Then Become It Acts 28:2 (ESV)

The Bible calls them “native people.” The Greek word is barbaroi, the word Greeks used for people who did not speak _____. Yet these “barbarians” welcomed strangers with a fire.

Luke calls their kindness philanthrōpia, literally “love for people,” and the Bible rightly calls it “unusual _____.” God often meets our needs through the hands of other people.

APPLICATION

Identify one person who is “cold and wet” in some way, and “build a fire” for them: bring a meal, send a text, or sit with them. And if you are the one who is hurting right now, let someone build a fire for you.

III. Serpent’s Snare and Safety: Keep Serving After You Are Bitten Acts 28:3–4 (ESV)

Being faithful does not mean you will never get _____.

Your trial is not proof that God has left you. It may be the very stage on which God is about to show His glory.

APPLICATION:

If you are in a painful season right now, don't quit serving. Send an encouraging card or pray for someone else who is sick.

IV. Shaking Off Trials: Let God Show His Glory Through Your Endurance *Acts 28:5–6 (ESV)*

Paul's escape is not a promise that no believer will ever be harmed. What every believer can count on is this: When God has a purpose for your life, no _____ can cancel it.

Survival is not the promise; God's _____ is.

APPLICATION

Share your _____ with one person this week: "Here's what happened. Here's how God helped me. Here's what I know about Him now."

PERSONAL REFLECTION

What "shipwreck" am I walking through, and can I trust that God is steering it toward His purpose? Who is "cold and wet" that I can build a fire for? Where have I been "bitten," and have I stopped gathering sticks? How can my endurance this week show someone God's glory?

Answer Key

I. Stranded But Safe: Trust That God Keeps His Word in Your Storm. rescue stop	II. Shelter in Kindness: Receive Kindness, Then Become It. Greek kindness
III. Serpent's Snare and Safety bitten	IV. Shaking Off Trials: trial presence testimony

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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