

October 18, 2026



Stranded or Sent?
Finding God's Purpose on Your Detour
Acts 28:7-10

St. John Baptist Church
Love God • Love People • Make Disciples


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Oct. 18th | 10:45 AM CDT
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Sermon Notes

Acts 28:7–10 (ESV)

⁷Now in the neighborhood of that place were lands belonging to the chief man of the island, named Publius, who received us and entertained us hospitably for three days.

⁸It happened that the father of Publius lay sick with fever and dysentery. And Paul visited him and prayed, and putting his hands on him healed him.

⁹And when this had taken place, the rest of the people on the island who had diseases also came and were cured.

¹⁰They also honored us greatly, and when we were about to sail, they put on board whatever we needed.

(Answer key located on the back page)

BIG IDEA — *God's plan often unfolds in unexpected ways, and He calls us to be His instruments of love and healing, right where we are, starting today.*

I. Hospitality Opens Doors for God's Work - Acts 28:7 (ESV)

Publius, the chief man of the island, could have said, "Not my problem." Instead, he opened his home. Luke used three words to describe the reception:

- **Welcomed** — he received them as _____.
- **Entertained** — he acted as their _____.
- **Hospitably** — a friendly mind and a warm _____.

A divine appointment is a two-way _____:
God used kindness to open it for Paul, and God used Paul to walk through it for Publius.

APPLICATION: This week, open one door. Write down the name of one stranded person — a lonely neighbor, a struggling coworker, a new face at church — and invite them to a meal or a ride to church.

II. Prayer Presents Our Needs to the Healer - Acts 28:8 (ESV)

Paul visited the sick father of Publius, and then he prayed. Notice the pattern: show up, then _____.

Paul was not the healer. The power did not live in Paul's hands — it lived in _____.

This passage does not promise every sickness will be healed the way we ask. But when we pray, we are never _____ our breath.

APPLICATION: Pray out loud with one hurting person this week. Don't just say, "I'll be praying for you." Ask, "Can I pray with you right now?"

III. Restoration Rises from a Simple Response -Acts 28:9 (ESV)

Luke does not say that Paul cured them. He says they “were _____,” so the credit goes to God, not Paul.

Both verbs “came” and “cured,” are in a Greek tense that means kept on _____. God’s supply did not run dry.

God does not wait for us to feel ready. Our small “yes” is the match, and God supplies the _____.

APPLICATION: Say yes to the first need God puts in front of you. Each morning this week, ask, “Who do You want me to help today?” You are not the supply; God is.

IV. God’s Grace Gives Generously - Acts 28:10 (ESV)

Paul washed ashore with nothing; he leaves with “_____ we needed.”

In the first century, to “honor” someone could include material gifts and even _____.

Give where you cannot be repaid. And when a blessing comes back around, receive it as God’s _____, not as a wage.

APPLICATION: Say “thank you” with something real this week: write a note to, or take to lunch, one person who has blessed you.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Am I treating my detour as a dead end, or as a place God has sent me? Where is God asking me to open a door, offer a prayer, or answer a need right in front of me? Who has blessed me that I need to thank this week?

Answer Key

I. Hospitality Opens Doors for God's Work

guests | host | heart | door

II. Prayer Presents Our Needs to the Healer

pray | God | wasting

III. Restoration Rises from a Simple Response

cured | happening | fire

IV. God's Grace Gives Generously

whatever | payment | kindness

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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