

October 25, 2026



Sermon Notes

Acts 28:11–15 (ESV)

¹¹After three months we set sail in a ship that had wintered in the island, a ship of Alexandria, with the twin gods as a figurehead.

¹²Putting in at Syracuse, we stayed there for three days.

¹³And from there we made a circuit and arrived at Rhegium. And after one day a south wind sprang up, and on the second day we came to Puteoli.

¹⁴There we found brothers and were invited to stay with them for seven days. And so we came to Rome.

¹⁵And the brothers there, when they heard about us, came as far as the Forum of Appius and Three Taverns to meet us. On seeing them, Paul thanked God and took courage.

(Answer key located on the back page)

BIG IDEA — *Even the strongest believer needs strengthening, and God loves to send that strength through His ordinary people. So don't walk alone: receive the strength God sends and become the strength God sends.*

I. Trust the Appointment God Plans - Acts 28:11–13 (ESV)

Paul's ship did not crash just anywhere. It crashed on the one island where God had already parked the next _____.

Paul's strength was never his control. His strength was that he _____ the God who was in control.

APPLICATION: Name your “Malta” — the place you never planned to land. Each time it comes to mind this week, pray: “Lord, You're not lost. Show me the ship You have waiting.”

II. Welcome the People God Places - Acts 28:14a (ESV)

Luke writes four simple, beautiful words: “There we found _____.” God had already gone ahead of Paul — and He has already gone ahead of you.

“Invited” is the Greek word *parakaleō* (*pah-rah-kah-LEH-oh*), meaning “to call someone to your _____.”

The next time someone offers to come alongside you, don't say, “I'm fine.” Say, “_____.”

Jesus accepted help from Simon of Cyrene on His hardest road (Luke 23:26). If Jesus received help, you never have to be _____ of needing it.

APPLICATION: Send one text. Pick one of the “strong ones” — someone who is always serving and never gets asked — and send five words: “How are YOU doing, really?”

III. Receive (and Give) the Strength God Produces

- *Acts 28:14b–15 (ESV)*

Paul longed to be “mutually encouraged” by them (Romans 1:12). If Paul could say, “I _____ you,” so can we.

“To meet us” is *apantēsis* (*ah-PAN-tay-sis*): a city sending its leaders out to escort an honored _____.

“Took courage” is *tharsos* (*THAR-sos*). Jesus promised Paul courage (Acts 23:11); then He delivered that courage through His _____.

APPLICATION: Climb over the railing! Before you leave today, find someone from another generation. Seniors, ask, “How can I pray for you this week?” Young people, ask, “Tell me one time God brought you through.”

PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Where is my “Malta”? Am I trusting God’s timing or white-knuckling the wheel? Am I quick to help but slow to say, “I need you”? Whose tired arms can I hold up?

Answer Key

I. Trust the Appointment God Plans

ship | trusted | stepping
stone

II. Welcome the People God Places

brothers | side | Thank you |
ashamed

III. Receive (and Give) the Strength God Produces

need | guest | people

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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