



BIBLE TEXT | ACTS 27:39-28:10

39 Now when it was day, they did not recognize the land, but they noticed a bay with a beach, on which they planned if possible to run the ship ashore. **40** So they cast off the anchors and left them in the sea, at the same time loosening the ropes that tied the rudders. Then hoisting the foresail to the wind they made for the beach. **41** But striking a reef, they ran the vessel aground. The bow stuck and remained immovable, and the stern was being broken up by the surf. **42** The soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners, lest any should swim away and escape. **43** But the centurion, wishing to save Paul, kept them from carrying out their plan. He ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and make for the land, **44** and the rest on planks or on pieces of the ship. And so it was that all were brought safely to land.

28:1 After we were brought safely through, we then learned that the island was called Malta. **2** The native people showed us unusual kindness, for they kindled a fire and welcomed us all, because it had begun to rain and was cold. **3** When 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. **4** When 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." **5** He, however, shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm. **6** They 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. **7** Now 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. **8** It 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. **9** And when this had taken place, the rest of the people on the island who had diseases also came and were cured. **10** They also honored us greatly, and when we were about to sail, they put on board whatever we needed.



DEVOTIONAL FOR ACTS 27:39-28:10

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Who do you have your faith in? As a disciple of Christ, in all situations, we must show our faith in Christ to others by our actions in order for God to be glorified. Non-believers should be able to see His goodness in our lives. Because we have hope in Jesus, we are to trust our fate in His hands because He knows best. Because of our faith, the great and awesome God keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments (Nehemiah 1:5). Trusting God completely, stepping out boldly on His Word, and knowing He is in control encourages other believers to do the same. Paul demonstrates this in verses 34-38 of Acts 27.

As we stand on the ground the Lord has conquered, we can do His will boldly knowing if He brought us to it, He will see us through it. We see this in this passage. As we live by faith, times will not always be easy. You never know when a viper (haters) will attack you or a tragedy will strike. It is out of your control. Rest assured the Lord is still in control and He has our best interest at heart, no matter if you live or die as you endure a hard situation. His will, His Way, is the best way for us! In Paul's case, he was unharmed by the viper. It reminds me of Isaiah 54:17, "No weapon formed against you shall prosper; and every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is from me, says the Lord".

Paul also demonstrated kindness by praying for and healing the people of the island. Kindness is the fifth fruit of the Spirit which we should be living out in our daily life. Serving the Lord pays off all the time, even when we may not see the fruits of our labor here on earth. As you can see, Paul experienced tremendous kindness in Acts 28:10 when people from the island stocked their boat with supplies.

My prayer for us is to keep the faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ at all times!! I want to leave you with John 14:6: "Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." Keep believing! Keep trusting! Keep up the good fight! We are to be the "Paul" of our day NOW!



Questions:

1. Who or what are you trusting?
2. What do your actions reveal about what you truly believe?
3. What is one area of obedience that you could grow? Share this with your Journey Group or other biblical community.