

Driven Out By Fire

Acts 28:1-6

¹Once we were safe on shore, we learned that we were on the island of Malta. ²The people of the island were very kind to us. It was cold and rainy, so they built a fire on the shore to welcome us.

³As Paul gathered an armful of sticks and was laying them on the fire, a poisonous snake, driven out by the heat, bit him on the hand. ⁴The people of the island saw it hanging from his hand and said to each other, “A murderer, no doubt! Though he escaped the sea, justice will not permit him to live.” ⁵But Paul shook off the snake into the fire and was unharmed. ⁶The people waited for him to swell up or suddenly drop dead. But when they had waited a long time and saw that he wasn’t harmed, they changed their minds and decided he was a god.

1. God Didn’t Let You Survive the Storm to be Taken Out by a Snake.

Acts 28:3

³As Paul gathered an armful of sticks and was laying them on the fire, a poisonous snake, driven out by the heat, bit him on the hand.

2. Don’t Let the Judgment of Others Affect Who You Are.

Acts 28:3-4

³As Paul gathered an armful of sticks and was laying them on the fire, a poisonous snake, driven out by the heat, bit him on the hand. ⁴The people of the island saw it hanging from his hand and said to each other, “A murderer, no doubt! Though he escaped the sea, justice will not permit him to live.”

Matthew 7:1-5 (MEV)

¹“Judge not, that you be not judged. ²For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged. And with the measure you use, it will be measured again for you. ³“And why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not consider the plank that is in your own eye? ⁴Or how will you say to your brother, ‘Let me pull the speck out of your eye,’ when a log is in your own eye? ⁵You hypocrite! First take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.

3. Shake Off the Attacks of the Enemy.

Acts 28:5

⁵But Paul shook off the snake into the fire and was unharmed.

4. Watch God Use Your Testimony To Help Others and Bring Provision.

Acts 28:6-10

⁶The people waited for him to swell up or suddenly drop dead. But when they had waited a long time and saw that he wasn't harmed, they changed their minds and decided he was a god. ⁷Near the shore where we landed was an estate belonging to Publius, the chief official of the island. He welcomed us and treated us kindly for three days. ⁸As it happened, Publius's father was ill with fever and dysentery. Paul went in and prayed for him, and laying his hands on him, he healed him. ⁹Then all the other sick people on the island came and were healed. ¹⁰As a result we were showered with honors, and when the time came to sail, people supplied us with everything we would need for the trip.