

Acts 28:17-31 THE CURRENT MISSION

Mission Completed

Life Group Leaders should read through this material and choose a few questions to talk over in your group. Your group will not have time to cover all the material. The guide is for personal study and for choosing a few questions that you and your life group would like to discuss.

Read Aloud Acts 28:17-31

Before we break down this section of Scripture, describe what is happening in your own words. (Being able to summarize Scripture is a great way to see if we are comprehending what we have just read.)

Acts 28:17

Paul gathered together the prominent leaders to his rented quarters under Roman guard. The Jews who had accused him had not yet arrived (and most likely never did arrive) in Rome to bring a further case against Paul.

It is interesting to note that Paul refutes any accusations of breaking any of the Jewish laws or the customs of Israel. Keeping God's law was important to Paul even though he clearly taught that it could not save anyone and did not require the Gentiles to keep the ceremonial laws.

Acts 28:18-20

After seeing Paul's journey, it is clear that God used his unjust imprisonment for many profound ways. Yet again, Paul's chains lead him to an opportunity to preach the Gospel, the hope of Israel, to the most prominent Jewish leaders in Rome.

Hope of Israel: This was a term that Paul used throughout his teachings in reference to the hope of the Messiah. This hope was tied to Israel as the Messiah's coming would ultimately free Israel from their enemies and reinstate them as the "light to the world" and a "city on a hill." In Christ's second coming, He will establish Israel as a last beacon to a dying and perishing world.

In Acts 23:6, 24:15, 26:6, all are references to Paul pointing towards Christ as the hope of Israel, solidified by the resurrection from the dead.



Question: Paul had been accused a lot in his ministry. It is hard to keep a clean conscience when accusations are constantly coming your way. How do you think Paul remained confident and at peace while experiencing so many accusations? How can you remain confident/have a clean conscience in the midst of conflict and accusation?



Acts 28:21-24

Paul spent an entire day explaining who Jesus was from the Old Testament Scriptures. Wow, talk about evidence and knowledge of prophecy! Notice that Paul spoke to them considering the kingdom of God and convincing them of Jesus being the Messiah.

A Kingdom of God: Jesus also spoke of “the Kingdom of God” frequently. The idea of salvation comes from the Old Testament prophecies of an everlasting kingdom that would be ruled by the Seed of David. This kingdom would be established on earth with a righteous King, the people of God freed from their enemies and war, and a people who were filled with the truth of God and new hearts. It is important to be reminded that the early church did not focus on “going to heaven” but rather being ready for the fulfillment of the Kingdom of God being established through the Messiah. Those saved in Christ are promised to be resurrected and to be citizens in the New Jerusalem established in a New Heaven and a New Earth.

B Jesus as the Messiah: All Jews agreed and believed that God was going to send a Messiah that would do what is described above. However, there was disagreement about the resurrection and what exactly this victory would mean. Most Jews saw it as a military conquest, not a conquest against sin and spiritual wickedness. Paul preached that it is Jesus who will establish the Kingdom of God, and faith in His Name alone as the path to eternal life and the Kingdom of God.

? Question: What comes to your mind when you think of salvation? Do you think of Old Testament prophecies and being apart of a new kingdom under the Lordship of Christ? Or what comes to mind?

Acts 28:25-28

1 Paul consistently quoted the Old Testament prophets who prophesied both of Israel past disobedience and of their future blindness toward God’s voice and commands. Jesus quoted and taught this concept many times. He taught there was a spiritual element of discernment required to know God’s truth. This could only happen through the Spirit of God working by the grace of God through humble and contrite faith.

Matt 13:14-15, Mark 4:12, Luke 8:10, 1 Corinthians 2:1-16, Ephesians 2:1-10

2 From the beginning God sent Paul to the Gentiles (Acts 9:15-16). Paul always had a heart for the Jews, but it was ultimately through the faith and obedience of the Gentiles that God would ultimately reach the Jews (Romans 11:11-24).

Think about how many times Paul had been stoned and beaten by the Jews for preaching this message. Even now, he had to think preaching this message could keep him in prison for even longer. Yet none of this moved him. The temptation to avoid beatings or imprisonment did not move Paul, he continued to preach the WHOLE Gospel.

? Question: Does the fear of consequences (losing friends, being fired, being looked down upon by other Christians) ever cause you to shrink back from sharing the whole truth?

Acts 28:30-31

For two years, Paul had an evangelistic ministry out of his rented home that was guarded by the Romans. Even though Paul was in prison, this home acted as a sanctuary to preach the Gospel free from persecution. Paul also wrote many letters from prison, and likely from this location. During his imprisonment, he wrote Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon. The other pastoral Epistles were most likely written while Paul was released from this sentence and then during his second Roman imprisonment.

The book of Acts most likely was written and finished before Paul's release from prison. Had the book been written after his release, it most likely would have commented on his next missionary journey, final imprisonment, and martyrdom. Due to its abrupt ending, there is some debate on the exact details of Paul's final phase of ministry leading up to his final letter (2nd Timothy) and his martyrdom.



Question: After all Paul went through, his top concern was the advancement of the Gospel. As you reflect on the book of Acts, what is a key takeaway you have? If you could implement one thing you have learned what would it be?

Weekly Challenge

Take time this week to evaluate what you have learned from the book of Acts. Are you making the necessary changes to live a life fully committed to the mission of Jesus? What is your ONE takeaway? If there is one thing you can implement from the book of Acts, what is it? Take some time to journal about this and seek God's wisdom and strength to live as His disciple.

Memory Verse

Acts 27:25 ESV

"So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told."

