

COURAGE TO OVERCOME

PASTOR PAUL CHAPPELL | OCTOBER 6, 2024

Text: Acts 28:1-10

“And when they were escaped, then they knew that the island was called Melita. 2 And the barbarous people shewed us no little kindness: for they kindled a fire, and received us every one, because of the present rain, and because of the cold. 3 And when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid them on the fire, there came a viper out of the heat, and fastened on his hand. 4 And when the barbarians saw the venomous beast hang on his hand, they said among themselves, No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he hath escaped the sea, yet vengeance suffereth not to live. 5 And he shook off the beast into the fire, and felt no harm. 6 Howbeit they looked when he should have swollen, or fallen down dead suddenly: but after they had looked a great while, and saw no harm come to him, they changed their minds, and said that he was a god. 7 In the same quarters were possessions of the chief man of the island, whose name was Publius; who received us, and lodged us three days courteously. 8 And it came to pass, that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and of a bloody flux: to whom Paul entered in, and prayed, and laid his hands on him, and healed him. 9 So when this was done, others also, which had diseases in the island, came, and were healed: 10 Who also honoured us with many honours; and when we departed, they laded us with such things as were necessary.” (Acts 28:1-10)

INTRODUCTION

- Paul is prisoner on his way to Rome under Roman guard (Acts 27:1)
- Their ship was wrecked at island of Melita after a storm at sea (27:41)
- ~~Paul~~ gave God gave Paul courage to continue on his journey

1. Stranded IN AN UNUSUAL CULTURE (v. 2)

A. The place

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. 2 Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; 3 Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah.” (Psalm 46:1-3)

- Melita Phoenician name for Malta

B. The people (probably Phoenician)

A BARBAROUS PEOPLE - former natives
A SYMPATHETIC PEOPLE - kind, hospitable

C. The problem

THEY WERE WET - storm, rain, cold
THEY WERE STRANDED on the beach

2. Wounded **BY AN UNCOVERED CULPRIT** (v. 3-5) - ^{deadly} snake

A. Paul servicing - gathering fire wood

Quote: "As always, Paul soon made himself useful. The fire, if it was to be kept going, needed wood. Paul did not stand upon his dignity, nor did he plead exhaustion and fatigue. Nor did he complain about the rain, the wind, and the cold, nor fight for a place near the fire. Off he went to get wood to keep the fire blazing for the benefit of others." - **John Phillips**

"For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45)

B. Viper bite - particular poisonous snake
- natives expected body swelling & death

3. Branded **BY UNFAIR CRITICISM** (v. 4-6)

A. A murderer - natives thought divine judgment

"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; 12 Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation."
(1 Peter 2:11-12)

"If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. 15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. 16 Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf." (1 Peter 4:14-16)

B. A god - natives shocked Paul not dead
- but now "He must be a god"

4. Rewarded **BY UNDESERVED CARE** (v. 7-10)

A. Place for comfort

A PLACE OF LODGING - prominent man
Publius lodged & cared for them for 3 days

COURTEOUS TREATMENT

"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." (1 Peter 5:7)

"I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. 14 Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord." (Psalm 27:13-14)

B. Power for ministry

POWER TO MINISTER - Publius father healed by Paul
THE POWER IN PRAYER - Paul laid hands on him & prayed
"Erastus abode at Corinth: but Trophimus have I left at Miletum sick." (2 Timothy 4:20)

POWER FOR A BUSY WORK - Paul healed others

Quote: "Soon Paul was busy, and Luke also, as people flocked in with their sick." - John Phillips

C. Provision For ministry

HONOR GIVEN FOR LABOR - Paul received praise
SUPPLIES FOR THE JOURNEY - Paul received necessity

"Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. 12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. 13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." (Philippians 4:11-13)

"But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God. 19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:18-19)

CONCLUSION

Paul's party & guards stayed on Melita for 3 months

