

Acts: The Church on Earth

They Will Hear It

Acts 28

Acts: The Church On Earth

- Jesus' ascension
- The attempt at filling a apostolic role by lots and human wisdom, |when it would be by the Chief Shepherd who chose Paul
- **[1 Samuel 16:7 NKJV] But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For [the LORD does] not [see] as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."**
- Pentecost - the Holy Spirit available to all
- The disciples
- The spread of the gospel throughout the region and to other regions (Philip and the Ethiopian)
- Persecution and spread to the region
- Faith, healing, sobriety, holiness, church growth
- Paul converted, three missionary journeys
- Church grown and known throughout the land
- Many Jews and Gentiles come to faith
- A real sense of urgency to share the gospel, community within the church, and genuine faith in Jesus as the only Way, Truth and the Life

Previously

- Preached to Gentiles, rejected by the Jews
- On trial
- Paul preaches to kings and rulers, appeals to Caesar
- Set sail for Rome
- Trying to get to Rome before winter. Paul convinced everyone would die. Captain and owner eager to press on, Julius goes with the Captain and owner
- Major storms, ship crashes, Paul assured God that they'd survive but the ship wouldn't. But they had to stay together.
- Miracle that Roman soldiers show them favor

[Pray]

Read 28:1-10

Island of Malta

South of Italy, north of Libya

17 miles long and 9 miles wide. Would easily fit between here and downtown Helena.

Tiny place. God used it in a big way.

God works in many ways and one way is he likes to use small things, or things not loved by the world, or things or people who are of low degree. Out in the middle of nowhere, from a nobody family, out shepherding the sheep.

[Zechariah 4:10a] For who has despised the day of small things?

Don't despise the day of small things!

Some of the most special memories I have are when things were small.

Church plant in NY.

First coming to know the Lord.

Early days of meeting my wife.

First moments with my newborns.

Things don't need to be big for them to be of God.

They need to be holy.

Big can get in the way. Can be full of distraction. Full of our own glory.

But small, small is easy to make it about the Lord.

What do I know, but that's why I don't understand these church launches, need X number of people, so much money...do they despise the day of small things?

Locals were above and beyond friendly

First moving to the Bitterroot

But the locals had some religious ideas that were wrong

Bad things happen to bad people

[Matthew 5:43-45 NKJV] "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, "that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

Our study through Proverbs shows quite the opposite of bad things to bad people sometimes

One of my favorite Psalms

[Psalm 73:2-3, 17-19 NKJV] But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; My steps had nearly slipped. For I [was] envious of the boastful, When I saw the prosperity of the wicked. ... Until I went into the sanctuary of God; [Then] I understood their end. Surely

You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction. Oh, how they are [brought] to desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors.

DGC

The natives were convinced that justice had finally caught up with this prisoner. Justice is actually a reference to the Greek goddess of justice, Dikee. The natives, knowing Paul was a prisoner, assumed he committed a great crime, and the goddess of justice would not permit Paul to escape unpunished.

Some churches have made doctrine out of Paul being bitten by a viper

Take Luke 10:19 out of context

[Luke 10:19 NKJV] "Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

This is not we are to test God. Go purposely grab a snake. Do something dangerous..."throw yourself off the temple roof" like Satan wanted Jesus to do

But instead, we are assured that **"he who is in us is greater than he who is in the world"**

We are assured a special grace in service, in ministry

Things will happen (Paul was shipwrecked, falsely accused and tried, beaten, eventually martyred) but that God is greater than it all. He will get us through. And that it's an honor to receive those things for the Kingdom. To be identified with Jesus in those ways.

But sometimes in service that special grace does come through. The viper does bite and latch on and nothing happens.

Sometimes those false accusations don't stick and we don't have to defend ourselves

Sometimes that person out to get us fails and God makes it a blessing

Walking alone in Newburgh

Publius - Roman name, I'd assume he's a Roman citizen that was a bit like an official or ambassador of the Island

More favor from God through pagan Romans who were open to the things of God.

Father healed

Many others healed

Just like the ministry of Jesus and the apostles

Not that healings can't or don't happen today - they do

But often we're blinded by western medicine and unbelief

And these things can be more powerfully used in areas that are far more desperate for healings and ultimately the Gospel.

We're hard to the gospel here. Shame on us. Woe to us.

[Matthew 11:21-24 KJV] Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you. And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.

If we think America will never fall or be destroyed because of the gospel past...we're sorrowfully mistaken. Just take a look around.

:11-16

Twin Brothers

From my Latin class memory, I believe this is Romulus and Remulus. The twin brothers were raised by wolves who founded...Rome.

Ship from Greece

Found some believers. So Paul and his friends at least had some shore leave. Allowed to find locals for fellowship.

Meeting believers when we've moved or traveled. Love hearing their stories. Meeting pastors. Finding out about their ministry and what it's like there. It's always encouraging and a blessing.

Be more open to meeting other believers. Guy on craigslist.

And so we went to Rome

Not a direct flight. Many, many ships. Many, many days and weeks. Almost died, twice. We really take our world travel for granted these days

[Daniel 12:4 NKJV] "But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."

For another time!

More favor

More courage

Lambano - take with the hand, lay hold of, carry away, procure for one's self

Tharsos - courage, confidence

Even Paul was getting discouraged

The long trip had worn him out

The trial, the jail, wondering what God was really doing maybe

But God had a plan

And he would sustain Paul here

The power of fellowship**Believing friends who really love you**

My friends back East

When Bob died

We should take courage in our true friends. Be the true friends others need. Do what's on your heart to do for the believers. The church.

[John 13:35 NKJV] "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

:17-22

Paul just can't stop!

He's gotten some rest. He's gotten some encouragement.

Now he's back at it - TALKING TO THE JEWS AGAIN

Doing the very thing that got him arrested and sent halfway around the Mediterranean

[Acts 5:29 NKJV] But Peter and the [other] apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men.

That's the church on earth! We should obey God, rather than man.

When man says no church, we will gather.

When man says bless this sin, we say no, we will call out this sin.

When man says compromise, we will hold firm our faith.

Rebellion to tyrants is obedience to God. - Thomas Jefferson's motto

Not that we cause chaos for chaos sake. But when the world says to disobey God, it is our duty to disobey them and encourage others to do so. No matter the cost.

V22 For concerning this sect (Christianity) we know that it is spoken against everywhere

The world hates the church. When push comes to shove, the church will be shoved.
We should expect nothing less.

[James 4:4 NKJV] Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

False churches that align with worldly values
(*video in England*)

If your church, your pastor, your doctrine goes against the winds of political correctness, what's popular in the world, then you're probably on the right track

Yes, use different methods and things, but No, don't compromise on holiness and the plain truth of the Bible

[John 15:20-21 NKJV] "Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. "But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me.

Persecution is a right of the church. We must, too, take courage, and be bold in our day. The world will not get better.

**America will not find favor and grace again...unless it repents.
And even then, I think it's far too late for our nation, our union. It's over.**

So what are we living for? Are we Americans first or Christians first?

:23-31

People come from all around to hear Paul preach

The power of the gospel

He uses the Bible to explain the Bible

He doesn't come up with complex arguments. He simply points out the things the Bible has plainly said about the Messiah and how Jesus easily and obviously fulfills them all

The truth starts arguments

[Matthew 10:34-36 NKJV] "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. "For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a

daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; "and 'a man's enemies will be those of his [own] household.'

The truth doesn't desire a fight, but it cannot be at peace with a lie

This is why our nation cannot survive. It is not politics anymore. It is good vs. evil. It is truth vs. lies.

There is no fixing it. Until one side recants or the other side repents.

Paul rebukes them with God's own words about them. They are hard hearted and hard of hearing. But the Gentiles...

THEY WILL HEAR IT!

Whether people listen or not, they will hear it.

Whether people believe it or not, they will hear it.

The gospel has gone out into all the world

[Romans 10:1-4 NKJV] Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ [is] the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

[Romans 10:14-21 NKJV] How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!" But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "LORD, who has believed our report?" So then faith [comes] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed: "Their sound has gone out to all the earth, And their words to the ends of the world." But I say, did Israel not know? First Moses says: "I will provoke you to jealousy by [those who are] not a nation, I will move you to anger by a foolish nation." But Isaiah is very bold and says: "I was found by those who did not seek Me; I was made manifest to those who did not ask for Me." But to Israel he says: "All day long I have stretched out My hands To a disobedient and contrary people."

It's our duty to spread the gospel. To share it. To live it. To love others.

Whether they believe or not. The blood is on their hands then.

Paul stayed there for two years. This is Paul's retirement. A cozy, Italian seaside AirBNB for a few years. Sharing the gospel from the comfort of his new home.

God is so good.

His plans for us are so much better than we think or imagine.

The Age of the Church is still going.

It will continue until the rapture.

The Holy Spirit is still moving.

His Gifts are still being given.

The church should be expectant of Jesus' return

But also expectant of him to work in us, through us, and to the world around us until then.

He has not left us orphans.

Let us be, by the Holy Spirit, the Church, the Body of Jesus, On Earth

Doing the Acts he's commissioned us to do.

[Matthew 28:18-20 NKJV] And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, [even] to the end of the age." Amen.

Let's Be The Church