

Acts 28:1-10
Paul on Malta: God Confirms His Messenger
November 1, 2009
Sermon Outline

Notes

I. Introduction

A. The Function of Signs

Key Idea

God himself has dramatically and repeatedly confirmed his Apostles and his message through many compelling signs.

B. The Promise of Jesus

Mark 16:15-18

¹⁵ And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. ¹⁶ Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷ **And these signs will accompany those who believe:** in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; ¹⁸ they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

II. God Provides for Paul and his Companions

A. All 276 People made it Safely to Shore (Acts 27:37, 44)

B. The People of **Malta** Showed Unusual Kindness

Acts 28:2

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.

1. 276 People

2. People who are shipwrecked are very vulnerable (they would be exhausted)

“In ancient times, survivors of a shipwreck who managed to land on unknown shores expected to face either death or slavery.”ⁱ

3. Provided for 276 People for 3 Months (verse 11) and gave provisions for their continued journey

Acts 28:10

They also honored us greatly, and when we were about to sail, they put on board whatever we needed.

II. God Provides Powerful Signs for Paul

A. God’s Promise to save them from the Storm is Fulfilled B. The Viper

Acts 28:3-6

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*.

C. The Healings

Acts 28:8-9

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**.

IV. Gospel Centered Thinking & Living

A. Paul's Apostleship Given by Jesus and Confirmed by Powerful Miraculous Signs

Romans 16:25

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to ***my gospel*** and ***the preaching of Jesus Christ***, according to ***the revelation of the mystery*** that was kept secret for long ages

1. Paul's Ministry of the Word in Rome
2. Paul's Ministry of the Word to Us

B. All Signs Point to the Gospel

1. The gospel is our only hope!/ We can trust God's promises!

John 11:25-26

"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, *though he die, yet shall he live*,²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me **shall never die**. Do you believe this?"

2. God through the gospel can preserve us from the poison of the viper!

Luke 10:17-20

¹⁷ The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!"¹⁸ And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.¹⁹ Behold, **I have given you authority to tread on serpents** and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you.²⁰ **Nevertheless**, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but **rejoice that your names are written in heaven.**"

3. In God's kingdom we will have life as it was meant to be!

¹ Simon J. Kistemaker and William Hendriksen, vol. 17, *New Testament Commentary* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1953-2001), 947.