

ACTS

Detours- Acts 28:1-10

May 3rd, 2015

OBSERVE & REFLECT

(This section is designed to encourage us to reflect on and observe the scripture and weekend sermon.)

READ Acts 28:1-10

- ☀ Read the text at least twice. Try reading the text from two different translations.
- ☀ What do you observe in the text? What jumps out at you and grabs your attention? What questions do you have from the text? Pay attention to any action words or phrases and observe what the implications are.

INVESTIGATE & APPLY

(This section focuses on what the scripture has to say as we dig deeper into the Word. It is oriented to create discussion on the Scripture.)

1. Read 28:1-10. Paul dealt with many fickle crowds on his journey. How is the fickleness of this crowd displayed?
2. What kindnesses are exchanged between the islanders and Paul?
3. What was Paul's ultimate destination? Did he plan to spend this time on Malta? What do you notice about his attitude in light of this change of plans?
4. Though Paul had every reason by this time to become very self-centered, how do you see him continuing to minister to others throughout these chapters on his way to Rome?
5. What does this show you about Paul's view of God's will? What was the most important part of God's will, and what parts were secondary to Paul?

“Paul had expressed his desire to proceed straight from Jerusalem to Rome. Instead, he was arrested in Jerusalem, subjected to endless trials, imprisoned in Caesarea, threatened with assassination..then nearly drowned in the Mediterranean, killed by soldiers, and poisoned by a snake! By God's providence, Paul reached Rome safe and sound, but he arrived as a prisoner!”

-John Stott

NEXT STEPS

- How has God led you into random places and detours in your life? Was that frustrating at the time? Looking back, do you see his purposes for doing so? What is your attitude when God gives you a “detour”, an unexpected part of your journey?
- God's will is a complex subject. How would you explain God's will for your life? Do you see it primarily as a place, a position, or something else? Take some time to articulate what God's will for your life is, sorting through the essential call on your life, as well as those things that could change your life greatly without changing the purpose of your life.