

ACTS

To Be Continued...- Acts 28:11-31
May 10th, 2015

OBSERVE & REFLECT

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

READ Acts 28:11-31

- ☀ 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 28:1-16. This is the end of the story of Paul's journey to Rome. Many people think that this account was too long in proportion to its value? Do you? Why do you think Luke so carefully recorded all of the difficulties in Paul's life in Acts 21-28 before reaching Rome?
2. What do you think it was like for Paul to be met by a delegation of Christians when he finally arrived in Rome (28:14-15)?
3. Paul continued to follow the principle that the gospel is for the Jew first, even in the Gentile capital of Rome. How did the Jews respond?
4. What do you think it means in v.31 that "boldly and without hindrance" Paul preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ?
5. The book of Acts ends in a strange way. Why does Luke leave us hanging like this? Does this seem like an appropriate ending to the book? Why or why not?
6. What ultimately happened to Paul? (*see footnote from ESV Study Bible)

"The statement 'boldly and without hindrance' is more significant than it looks. It means that there in the capital, the leading proponent of the Christian gospel was able to minister with the full awareness of Roman authority, under whose eye Paul worked. It really is a climax. Through great suffering yet through the help of God, the gospel arrived in the heart of the empire and took deep roots"
-Tim Keller

NEXT STEPS

- How does the ending of the book of Acts leave room for the story that is still being written? How does your life fit into that? Shouldn't our lives continue the story of the spread of the gospel?

*Information as to what happened beyond that time comes from extrabiblical sources and from hints in the last few of Paul's letters. First Clement 5.7 (written a.d. 95, perhaps the earliest known orthodox Christian writing after the NT) speaks of Paul preaching in "the limits of the west," which probably indicates his fulfilling his desire to preach in Spain (see Rom. 15:24). That would point to his release from the first Roman imprisonment. The church historian Eusebius, writing in a.d. 325, cites the tradition that Paul was freed from confinement and carried on a further ministry until he was arrested and placed in a second Roman imprisonment, at which time he was martyred (Ecclesiastical History 2.22). In God's sovereignty, Paul's time in prison was not wasted, for it was during his Roman imprisonment that he wrote the letters to the Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon. The time after Paul's release from his first imprisonment (mid-60s) would be when he wrote 1 Timothy and Titus. He probably wrote his last letter, 2 Timothy, during his second imprisonment, as he awaited execution (cf. 2 Tim. 4:6-8).