

Acts 28

The story of the Book of Acts came to an end. The story of the Church continues to this day.

Did you know....

God *wants* to use you in whatever situation you are in today.

God is *able* to use you in whatever situation you are in today.

More simply, God has both the *desire and the ability* to use you to further His kingdom work.

While the journeys of Paul have come to an end, the story of the Church continues to this day and you are a part of that story.

Observations we can make from the final portion of Acts:

1) The success of gospel proclamation can never be measured by the response to the gospel.

You might have had some experiences that did not end well. Or maybe you are concerned about, even afraid of what if it doesn't go well. Success is not measured by response.

Notice in Acts 28:24-27....

Some believed but some did not. This is the Apostle Paul. There were some who heard Paul preach and explain the Scriptures and they still walked away.

God has predicted that some people will not respond to the Gospel. In other words, some people can hear a gospel presentation that is clear, nonthreatening and presented by one of our best guys ever, the Apostle Paul and they will still say no.

This shows us the condition of the human heart. The problem is not with Paul because some responded. The problem is not with the message – some responded. There are people who simply choose not to respond. You cannot focus on results in your efforts to reach people. You can only focus on your obedience.

2) The task of gospel proclamation is not given to one person but to the entire Church.

You might think that Paul is on his own to preach the gospel. Not so. This is a team effort.

Consider these questions:

1) How did Paul pay for his living expenses?

It seems as if somehow, somebody is helping him. Some of his Christian friends in Jerusalem may have sent some money with Paul. Certainly not enough for two years. Even if he was sent with money, that could have been lost at sea. In part or in full, Christians in Rome, who didn't know Paul, funded this.

2) How did people know when, where and how to find Paul? We read in 28:30 that Paul lived in Rome for two years and welcomed all who came to him. How did Rome know about Paul?

Evidently, there were Christians who provided money or food or clothes to Paul. Christians who encouraged Paul; prayed for Paul; told people how to find Paul. They are all part of the gospel team.

God has both the *desire and the ability* to use people, including you, to further His kingdom work.

Home Group Discussion Questions:

1. Read Acts 28:17-31 in your group and share your observations. What stands out to you as read that passage?
2. Discuss some ways teamwork is essential to the Church today?
(Teamwork being the concept of different people doing different things to support the same goal.)
3. It may feel as if the Book of Acts ends abruptly. How does this ending somehow include you?
4. What does the ending to the Book of Acts say about the mission of the Church? Consider the following that we may not have covered on Sunday:

Luke has given the Book of Acts two bookends. The beginning and ending are tied together.

Please read Acts 1:1-3 and compare with 28:23, 31

Luke began by introducing us to Jesus who was dead and He lives and He showed Himself with many signs and He taught about the **Kingdom of God**. Luke closes with Paul pointing to Jesus as the one who fulfilled prophecy, which means He lived, died, rose again and taught us about the **Kingdom of God**.

5. Do you have any lasting impressions from the Book of Acts?