**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Acts 28:1-31**

**THE BIG IDEA: Like Paul, all Christians are called to continue proclaiming the gospel to all people until Jesus returns regardless of our circumstances.**

**IF YOU WANT TO REACH PEOPLE WITH THE GOSPEL YOU NEED TO \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ WITH PEOPLE WHO NEED THE GOSPEL**

* *“Now in the area around that place was an estate belonging to the leading man of the island, named Publius, who welcomed us and entertained us hospitably for three days. 8 Publius’s father was in bed suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went to him, and praying and laying his hands on him, he healed him. 9 After this, the rest of those on the island who had diseases also came and were healed. 10 So they heaped many honors on us, and when we sailed, they gave us what we needed.”* (Acts 28:7-10)
* **Jesus was a friend to sinners so that he could share the gospel of repentance with them, and we should follow His example.**

**DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES IN OUR LIVES CAN OFTEN BE USED AS A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ FOR SHARING THE GOSPEL**

* *“After arranging a day with him, many came to him at his lodging. From dawn to dusk he expounded and testified about the kingdom of God. He tried to persuade them about Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets. 24 Some were persuaded by what he said, but others did not believe.”* (Acts 28:23-24)
* *“At the same time, pray also for us that God may open a door to us for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains.”* (Colossians 4:3)
* **Even in our darkest hours and difficult situations, we should be proclaiming rather than complaining.**
* **When you are faithful to plant the seeds of the gospel no matter the circumstances, God is faithful to bring the harvest from your labor.**
* *“Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually advanced the gospel, 13 so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard, and to everyone else, that my imprisonment is because I am in Christ. 14 Most of the brothers have gained confidence in the Lord from my imprisonment and dare even more to speak the word fearlessly.”* (Philippians 1:12-14)

**EVERY CHRISTIAN HAS BEEN GIVEN THE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ OF CONTINUING THE MISSION OF SHARIG THE GOSPEL**

* *“Paul stayed two whole years in his own rented house. And he welcomed all who visited him, 31 proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.”* (Acts 28:30-31)
* **A person who has truly been redeemed and transformed by Christ will have a passion and burden for seeing others come to faith in Him as well.**
* *“When he saw the crowds, he felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. 38 Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest.’”* (Matthew 9:36-38)
* **When we learn to see people with compassion as Jesus did, it should compel us to share the gospel with non-believers regardless of their nationality, ethnicity, social class, or sinful lifestyle.**

**CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION**

**ICE-BREAKER**: What is something you want everyone to know about you as a person?

**START THINKING (Observation):**

* What does Acts 28 teach us about God/The Holy Spirit?
* How does Acts 28 affirm that God keeps His word?
* How did the pagan people on Malta treat Paul and the others?
* How did Paul’s imprisonment affect his ministry?
* What was the result of God’s word being faithfully proclaimed?

**DIGGING DEEPER (Understanding and Application):**

* What did you learn from Paul’s interaction with unbelievers on Malta?
* What can we learn from Paul’s ministry while imprisoned?
* What are your apprehensions about sharing the gospel with nonbelievers? How can you overcome those apprehensions to be a bold witness for Christ?
* Why is it so important that every Christian fulfills their responsibility to proclaim the truth of the gospel of Jesus?
* What are your top 3 takeaways from this study through Acts?
* What will you do differently based on this study?

**LOVING OUTWARD**

* Who do I/you need to share Jesus with this week?
* Who do you need to have a follow-up conversation about Jesus with?
* Who are you inviting/bringing to church next week?