

ACTS 28 – Paul in Chains

Acts 28:11-31

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Reflection & Discussion Questions

Paul is an obvious evangelist

Evangelism is telling people about Jesus and the Gospel.

*What comes to mind when you think about the word ‘evangelism’?

*Does that term have good or bad connotations to you? What have been your experiences with evangelism, either practicing or receiving it?

It is relevant not just that Paul did evangelism...but HOW he did it

Read and discuss Acts 28:16-31 (NIV)

16 When we got to Rome, Paul was allowed to live by himself, with a soldier to guard him. 17 Three days later he called together the local Jewish leaders. When they had assembled, Paul said to them: “My brothers, although I have done nothing against our people or against the customs of our ancestors, I was arrested in Jerusalem and handed over to the Romans. 18 They examined me and wanted to release me, because I was not guilty of any crime deserving death. 19 The Jews objected, so I was compelled to make an appeal to Caesar. I certainly did not intend to bring any charge against my own people. 20 For this reason I have asked to see you and talk with you. It is because of the hope of Israel that I am bound with this chain.”

21 They replied, “We have not received any letters from Judea concerning you, and none of our people who have come from there has reported or said anything bad about you. 22 But we want to hear what your views are, for we know that people everywhere are talking against this sect.”

23 They arranged to meet Paul on a certain day, and came in even larger numbers to the place where he was staying. He witnessed to them from morning till evening, explaining about the kingdom of God, and from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets he tried to persuade them about Jesus. 24 Some were convinced by what he said, but others would not believe. 25 They disagreed among themselves and began to leave after Paul had made this final statement: “The Holy Spirit spoke the truth to your ancestors when he said through Isaiah the prophet:

26 “Go to this people and say,

and they have closed their eyes.

“You will be ever hearing but never understanding;

Otherwise they might see with their eyes,

you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.”

hear with their ears,

27 For this people’s heart has become calloused;

understand with their hearts

they hardly hear with their ears,

and turn, and I would heal them.’

28 “Therefore I want you to know that God’s salvation has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will listen!” [29] [b] 30 For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. 31 He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all boldness and without hindrance!

*What do we learn from Paul in this passage about evangelism? What is worth emulating in his approach?

*What would it look like to notice opportunities for the Gospel and Kingdom in all types of situations?

Healthy evangelism is EXPLAINING

Evangelism is not a sales presentation.

*What are the implications of evangelism not being about winning or convincing?

*What are some explanations you might give to someone for how a relationship with Jesus has answered the deep longings within you?

Healthy evangelism starts with WELCOME

Paul was curious about people.

*How does curiosity feel like welcome? How does curiosity help us know where to start talking to people about Jesus?

*What are some ways to practice getting better at welcome?

Healthy evangelism requires BOLDNESS

Boldness comes from clearly knowing the hope of Jesus, and deeply loving the person you are talking to.

*How is this type of boldness different from aggressiveness or contentiousness?

*Where might you be lacking boldness in telling people about Jesus and the Gospel?

*What are you sensing the Spirit might be saying about evangelism to you?