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“The End?”

Acts 28:11-31

June 21, 2026

Acts 28:11-31

11 After three months we set sail in an Alexandrian ship that had wintered at the island, with the Twin Gods[a] as its figurehead. 12 Putting in at Syracuse, we stayed three days. 13 From there, after making a circuit along the coast,[b] we reached Rhegium. After one day a south wind sprang up, and the second day we came to Puteoli. 14 There we found brothers and sisters and were invited to stay a week with them. And so we came to Rome. 15 Now the brothers and sisters from there had heard the news about us and had come to meet us as far as the Forum of Appius and the Three Taverns. When Paul saw them, he thanked God and took courage. 16 When we entered Rome,[c] Paul was allowed to live by himself with the soldier who guarded him.

17 After three days he called together the leaders of the Jews. When they had gathered he said to them, “Brothers, although I have done nothing against our people or the customs of our ancestors, I was delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans. 18 After they examined me, they wanted to release me, since there was no reason for the death penalty in my case. 19 Because the Jews objected, I was compelled to appeal to Caesar; even though I had no charge to bring against my people. 20 For this reason I’ve asked to see you and speak to you. In fact, it is for the hope of Israel that I’m wearing this chain.”

21 Then they said to him, “We haven’t received any letters about you from Judea. None of the brothers has come and reported or spoken anything evil about you. 22 But we want to hear what your views are, since we know that people everywhere are speaking against this sect.”

23 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.

25 Disagreeing among themselves, they began to leave after Paul made one statement:[d] “The Holy Spirit was right in saying to your[e] ancestors through the prophet Isaiah 26 when he said,

Go to these people and say:

You will always be listening,
but never understanding;
and you will always be looking,
but never perceiving.
27 For the hearts of these people
have grown callous,
their ears are hard of hearing,
and they have shut their eyes;
otherwise they might see with their eyes
and hear with their ears,
understand with their heart
and turn,
and I would heal them.[f]

28 Therefore, let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the
Gentiles; they will listen.”[g]

30 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.

This may not be the ending we want, but it is what we need.

Philippians 1:12-13

Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has
actually advanced the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole
imperial guard, and to everyone else, that my imprisonment is because I am in Christ.

“The Hope of Israel”

Luke 24:27

Then beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted for them the things
concerning himself in all the Scriptures.

“The same fire that melts the wax hardens the clay.”

Acts 28:30-31

Paul stayed two whole years in his own rented house. And he welcomed all who visited
him, proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all
boldness and without hindrance.

The King and the Kingdom

“Paul is a supporting actor and so are you.”

This is the end of the book, but it’s not the end of the story.

We are citizens of the kingdom and ambassadors of the King.

“Where in the world does Jesus want me to go next?”

Acts 1:11

They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up into heaven? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you have seen him going into heaven.”

Matthew 28:18-20

18 Jesus came near and said to them, “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go, therefore, and make disciples of[e] all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember,[f] I am with you always,[g] to the end of the age.”

Life Group Discussion Questions:

- 1) What did God say to you through the Scripture during our Sunday gathering?
- 2) If you were reading the book of Acts for the first time, what kind of ending might you expect? What surprises you about the way it actually ends?
- 3) How do you see God’s hand throughout Paul’s travels in this passage? How have you seen God care for you and encourage you on long journeys in life?
- 4) How have you understood the idea of the kingdom of God? Is there anything we learned from this passage that changed your understanding?
- 5) Why is focusing on the kingdom of God so important for our worldview? What happens if we don’t see the world and our lives through this lens?
- 6) What does it mean to live like a citizen of God’s kingdom? What about an ambassador of King Jesus?
- 7) If there is one thing you don’t want to forget about the book of Acts, what would that be?
- 8) How might you answer this question we ask as a church: “Where in the world does Jesus want me to go next?” What would a step of obedience look like?
- 9) How can your Life Group help you apply this passage to your life this week?