

**Acts 28 “Snake Bit”**  
**Acts 28:1-10**  
**June 14, 2026**

Acts 28:1-10

1 Once safely ashore, we then learned that the island was called Malta. 2 The local people showed us extraordinary kindness. They lit a fire and took us all in, since it was raining and cold. 3 As Paul gathered a bundle of brushwood and put it on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened itself on his hand. 4 When the local people saw the snake hanging from his hand, they said to one another, “This man, no doubt, is a murderer. Even though he has escaped the sea, Justice has not allowed him to live.” 5 But he shook the snake off into the fire and suffered no harm. 6 They expected that he would begin to swell up or suddenly drop dead. After they waited a long time and saw nothing unusual happen to him, they changed their minds and said he was a god.

7 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.

Paul’s experience with Jesus helps us see that living for Christ is more than never complaining but to be Christian is a life that continues with Christ.

When a circumstantial theology forms, a superstitious faith develops.

John 9:1-2

1 As he was passing by, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

John 9:3

3 “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” Jesus answered. “This came about so that God’s works might be displayed in him.

Jesus’ explanation creates another category for understanding blessing and misfortune.

Romans 3:12-13

12 All have turned away;  
all alike have become worthless.  
There is no one who does what is good,  
not even one.

13 Their throat is an open grave;  
they deceive with their tongues.  
Vipers’ venom is under their lips.

The gospel adds a new cause: God's love.

All the obstacles that should cripple and quiet faith actually propel the gospel forward.

### **Life Group Discussion Questions**

- 1.) What did God say to you through His Scripture during our Sunday gathering?
- 2.) What do you notice about the "local" islanders? What details does Luke record that give insight into their belief system?
- 3.) Paul is bitten by a poisonous snake. This seems like a good place to start complaining to God? What do you think is giving Paul strength and hope?
- 4.) Is anyone around you a superstitious person? In what way?
- 5.) How might a superstitious faith develop if we believe our actions are the most significant cause for good or bad outcomes? How does the gospel give us a more significant cause?
- 6.) Discuss the idea that misfortune isn't always your fault but something God is positioning for His glory? What are you walking through right now that could benefit from having a gospel perspective?
- 7.) What would help you wake up tomorrow morning with gospel intentionality?