

FBC Sebring Wednesday Prayer Meeting – Pastor Matt Crawford

May 18, 2016

Prayer in the Book of Acts (Part 17 - Conclusion)

Acts 28:1-16, 30-31 [Paul and all passengers survived shipwreck and made it to an island.]

1 After we were brought safely through, we then learned that the island was called Malta.

2 The native people showed us unusual kindness, for they kindled a fire and welcomed us all, because it had begun to rain and was cold.

3 When Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and put them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened on his hand.

4 When the native people saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, "No doubt this man is a murderer. Though he has escaped from the sea, Justice has not allowed him to live."

5 He, however, shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm.

6 They were waiting for him to swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But when they had waited a long time and saw no misfortune come to him, they changed their minds and said that he was a god.

7 Now in the neighborhood of that place were lands belonging to the chief man of the island, named Publius, who received us and entertained us hospitably for three days.

8 It happened that the father of Publius lay sick with fever and dysentery. And Paul visited him and prayed, and putting his hands on him healed him.

9 And when this had taken place, the rest of the people on the island who had diseases also came and were cured.

Prayer points:

- 1) Praise God for His sovereign protection of His people, and His keeping of His Word (He had told Paul that everyone would survive the journey).
- 2) Pray that our community would see God do amazing things in and through us, and that they would honor and be drawn to Him as a result (v. 3-6, 8-9).
- 3) Ask God for faith like Paul demonstrated, both during his harrowing journey and in his prayer for Publius' father's healing.

10 They also honored us greatly, and when we were about to sail, they put on board whatever we needed.

11 After three months we set sail in a ship that had wintered in the island, a ship of Alexandria, with the twin gods as a figurehead.

12 Putting in at Syracuse, we stayed there for three days.

13 And from there we made a circuit and arrived at Rhegium. And after one day a south wind sprang up, and on the second day we came to Puteoli.

14 There we found brothers and were invited to stay with them for seven days. And so we came to Rome.

15 And the brothers there, when they heard about us, came as far as the Forum of Appius and Three Taverns to meet us. On seeing them, Paul thanked God and took courage.

16 And when we came into Rome, Paul was allowed to stay by himself, with the soldier who guarded him.

30 He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, 31 proclaiming the Kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.

Prayer points:

- 1) Pray that the ministry, holiness, and love of our church members would lead to honor and revival in our community (v. 9-10).
- 2) Ask God to make us a hospitable, loving, and serving church (v. 14).
- 3) Ask God to make you an encouragement to other believers like the believers in verse 15 were to Paul, which led him to thank God and take courage.
- 4) Pray that we would all follow Paul's example, boldly and joyfully proclaiming the Kingdom of God and the teaching about Jesus until He takes us home.