

Discussion Questions

July 13, 2025



Acts 28 - The Unhindered Gospel

1. On a scale of 1-10, with 1 being 'completely overwhelmed and stuck' and 10 being 'completely free and thriving,' how would you describe how you're feeling about life's circumstances right now? What's contributing to that feeling? (No need for detailed stories yet, just a quick check-in.)
2. In Acts 28, Paul faces a snakebite, shipwreck, and house arrest, yet the chapter ends with the word "unhindered" (v. 31). How does this contrast between Paul's chains and the gospel's freedom strike you? What does it reveal about God's power?
3. In verses 3-6, Paul shakes off the snakebite without panic. In verses 17-24, he boldly shares the gospel despite rejection. What do these actions show about Paul's trust in God? How does his confidence challenge you?
4. How would you describe Paul's attitude during his time in Rome?
5. In the sermon, we see that Paul didn't wait for perfect conditions to serve God. What are some "chains" (limitations, frustrations, losses) that you feel in your life right now?
6. Why do you think God often chooses to work through brokenness or weakness instead of strength?
7. Who are the "Roman guards" in your life? People that are around you, that you may be overlooking and not even recognize the influence you may have or are having on their lives for the sake of the Gospel?
8. Paul's story doesn't end with a dramatic release or mass revival, but with quiet faithfulness in confinement. How does this challenge your expectations of what serving God "should" look like? What does it look like for you to trust God when His plan feels anticlimactic?

Acts 28:16, 30-31 (NASB 2020)

When we entered Rome, Paul was allowed to stay by himself, with the soldier who was guarding him...Now Paul stayed two full years in his own rented lodging and welcomed all who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God and teaching things about the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered.

Acts 28:30-31 (NASB 2020)

Now Paul stayed two full years in his own rented lodging and welcomed all who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God and teaching things about the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered.

Acts 28:3-6 (NLT)

As Paul gathered an armful of sticks and was laying them on the fire, a poisonous snake, driven out by the heat, bit him on the hand. The people of the island saw it hanging from his hand and said to each other, "A murderer, no doubt! Though he escaped the sea, justice will not permit him to live." But Paul shook off the snake into the fire and was unharmed. The people waited for him to swell up or suddenly drop dead. But when they had waited a long time and saw that he wasn't harmed, they changed their minds and decided he was a god.

Acts 28:15-16 (NLT)

The brothers and sisters in Rome had heard we were coming, and they came to meet us at the Forum on the Appian Way. Others joined us at The Three Taverns. When Paul saw them, he was encouraged and thanked God. When we arrived in Rome, Paul was permitted to have his own private lodging, though he was guarded by a soldier.

Acts 28:17 (NLT)

Three days after Paul's arrival, he called together the local Jewish leaders...

Acts 28:20

I asked you to come here today so we could get acquainted and so I could explain to you that I am bound with this chain because I believe that the hope of Israel - the Messiah - has already come."

Acts 28:21-22 (NLT)

They replied, "We have had no letters from Judea or reports against you from anyone who has come here. But we want to hear what you believe, for the only thing we know about this movement is that it is denounced everywhere."

Act 28:23-24 (NLT)

So a time was set, and on that day a large number of people came to Paul's lodging. He explained and testified about the Kingdom of God and tried to persuade them about Jesus from the Scriptures. Using the law of Moses and the books of the prophets, he spoke to them from morning until evening. Some were persuaded by the things he said, but others did not believe.

Acts 28:25-28 (NLT)

And after they had argued back and forth among themselves, they left with this final word from Paul: "The Holy Spirit was right when he said to your ancestors through Isaiah the prophet, 'Go and say to this people: When you hear what I say, you will not understand. When you see what I do, you will not comprehend. For the hearts of these people are hardened, and their ears cannot hear, and they have closed their eyes - so their eyes cannot see, and their ears cannot hear, and their hearts cannot understand, and they cannot turn to me and let me heal them.' So I want you to know that this salvation from God has also been offered to the Gentiles, and they will accept it."

Acts 28:30–31 (NASB 2020)

Now Paul stayed two full years in his own rented lodging and welcomed all who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God and teaching things about the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered.

Luke 1:1–4 (NLT)

Many people have set out to write accounts about the events that have been fulfilled among us. They used the eyewitness reports circulating among us from the early disciples. Having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I also have decided to write an accurate account for you, most honorable Theophilus, so you can be certain of the truth of everything you were taught.

Philippians 1:12–14 (NIV)

Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

Philippians 4:21–22 (NIV)

Greet all God's people in Christ Jesus. The brothers and sisters who are with me send greetings. All God's people here send you greetings, especially those who belong to Caesar's household.

2 Timothy 2:8–10 (NIV)

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. **But God's word is not chained.** Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

Acts 28:30–31 (NASB 2020)

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