

098 - After a Shipwreck - Acts 28:1-10 - 2013-12-29

Call to Worship: Psalm 91:1-2

Scripture Reading: Psalm 91:3-13

Sermon: "Shaking Off a Snake" Acts 28:1-10

Benediction: Luke 10:19-20

I. After a shipwreck, God's servants see His kindness toward them

- A. He caused the natives to be unusually kind in providing for His servant's urgent physical needs (1-2)
- B. He protected His servant from a poisonous snake (3-5)
- C. He caused a man to provide for Paul in the short term (7)
- D. He caused the islanders to honor him with many honors (10a)
- E. He moved the islanders to provide what Paul needed to continue his journey (10b)
- F. He provided (ahead of time) a ship in which Paul could continue his journey (11)

APPLICATION:

- 1. consider that if Paul and Luke and Aristarchus had not been shipwrecked like this, they would not have seen these examples of God's kindness
- 2. possibly we could remove the dread we feel at the idea of calamity if we keep this in mind

II. After a shipwreck, God's servants see sinners in a wretched condition

This shipwreck caused Paul, Luke, and Aristarchus to meet a whole island full of sinners they had not known before.

A. They are superstitious

- 1. They so misinterpreted God's providence as to consider the world's foremost Christian a murderer under the condemnation of the gods (4)
- 2. They thought Paul was a god (6)

B. They are sick

- 1. Publius' father with "Malta fever"
- 2. other people on the island

C. APPLICATION

- 1. you may have just suffered a shipwreck, but around you are poor, pitiful sinners
- 2. let this take your mind off your own misfortune, and put it on the even-worse plight of sinners around you
- 3. if your shipwreck causes you to come into contact with a new group of people, try to see them as worthy of your compassion

III. After a shipwreck, God's servants see work for them to do

A. See how Paul conducted himself after this shipwreck

- 1. he gathered wood for the fire (3a)
 - a. this is not in keeping with his station
 - b. this is not his calling

- c. it is good, wholesome work
 - d. it is right there in front of him
 - e. it is needful for himself
 - f. it is helpful to other people
2. he healed first one sick person, then many (8-9)

IV. After a shipwreck, God's servants see evidence of His sovereign grace

A. Malta? Of all places in the world, the apostle to the gentiles lands by accident on Malta?

- 1. Where is it Paul's purpose to go? to Rome!
- 2. Where is God sending Paul? to Rome!
- 3. Where did the shipwreck land him? on Malta!
- 4. The Lord Jesus Christ rules this world;
 - a. ships go where He blows them
 - b. gospel preachers wash up on whatever beach He wants them to

B. The Maltese people?

- 1. they are not Jews
- 2. neither are they Greeks!
- 3. they are barbarians! (2, 4)
 - a. Greek *barbaroi*, meaning "foreigners" to the Graeco-Roman people
 - b. Paul was a Jew, but was also comfortable among the Greeks
 - c. these people, though, are foreigners even to the world-travelling Paul
- 4. God prepared Paul's heart for this beforehand

Rom 1:13-16 Now I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that I often planned to come to you (but was hindered until now), that I might have some fruit among you also, just as among the other Gentiles. (14) I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise. (15) So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also. (16) For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

C. APPLICATION

- 1. let each one here consider what grace it is from the Lord Jesus Christ that He has sent His gospel here to us barbarians; are you shrugging it off?
- 2. consider that you, barbarian though you are, find yourself right at the door of the kingdom of heaven;
 - a. repent of your superstition
 - b. and believe the good news!
- 3. let us be thankful that the Lord, in sovereign grace, has favored us barbarians with the preaching of the good news
- 4. let us consider no one unworthy to hear the gospel
- 5. let us do our part in the church's world-wide mission to make disciples of every nation

IV. After a shipwreck, God's servants see the importance of Christ's apostles, especially Paul

A. Here we see two very clear miraculous signs by Paul

1. he shook off a viper with no ill effects
2. he healed all the sick people of the island
3. these are added to all the other miraculous signs the Lord enabled Paul to do
4. is it clear yet that this is Christ's messenger, preaching Christ's message?

B. These miraculous signs should cause us to commend Paul as one who is preaching and teaching the very word of Christ

2Co 12:11-12 I have become a fool in boasting; you have compelled me. For I ought to have been commended by you; for in nothing was I behind the most eminent apostles, though I am nothing. (12) Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds.

C. APPLICATION:

1. in the early church in Jerusalem, it is said that the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' doctrine; let us do that
2. it says in the book of Ephesians that the apostles are foremost among the gifts the Lord Jesus has given to His church; let us make use of that gift
3. you undoubtedly have problems, struggles, difficulties; let the doctrines and commands of the apostles be one of the primary ways you address them
4. everyone has heroes up to, people he tries to be like; let us give more of our attention to Paul; he told Christians in his time, "follow me as I follow Christ"

Sign gifts given to confirm apostles' ministry and message

-see Hebrews 2

-see Rev 2:2

-Paul says "signs of an apostle"

"I am a debtor . . . barbarians" "ready to preach the gospel"

Cairns

Every place we end up is an opportunity for victorious service.

Provided For

Protected

Made Useful
Sent On

God is authenticating Paul