



Title | Winter Visitors
Series | The Church That Changed the World
Text | Acts 28:1-10
By | Bob Kerrey
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Sermon Notes

Acts 28:1 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. **10** They also honored us greatly, and when we were about to sail, they put on board whatever we needed. *ESV*

Big Idea:

Mark 10:42 . . . “You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. **43** But it shall not be so among you. . . .” *ESV*

For Reflection and Application:

Monday:

Read Mark 10:35-45. In verse 42, Jesus alludes to worldly power. How would you describe it? How does Jesus feel about believers exercising worldly power to make things happen for God? In verse 45, how does Jesus model godly power?

Tuesday:

Read Acts 28:1-10. In this text and in the preceding context, Paul faces various powers that oppose or constrain him: the Jewish authorities, the Roman authorities, the Roman military, the storm, the snake (perhaps representing Satan), and social ostracism (“No doubt this man is a murderer”). How would you characterize Paul’s response? How is God’s power displayed?

Wednesday:

In the sermon on Acts 28:1-10, this idea was presented: The lowliness of a life surrendered to the Lord displays his power. What would be the opposite of a lowly life surrendered to the Lord? How could living the opposite obscure God’s power?

Thursday:

In what specific ways might you live a life of lowliness surrendered to the Lord? What might that look like, particularly when faced with threats and opposition?

Friday:

How does living a lowly life surrendered to the Lord inform the current culture wars in America? If all believers in America lived a lowly life surrendered to the Lord, what difference would it make?

Daily Prayer:

Lord, help me to live a lowly life surrendered fully to you so that, in my weakness, your power would be evident. Amen.

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