Made to Glorify!

Acts 28:1-16 | Ryan Pfeiffer | November 22, 2026

INTRO. Have you ever been on a Mission Trip… short/ long…?

- **In my twenties… I took students to Guatemala… with a team… 2wks**
- **What I loved the most (besides coffee) the focus of knowing my purpose**
- **Knowing that no matter what I was doing I was there for Jesus!**
- **The clarity… the stability**

As we come to the last chapter in Acts I've been amazed by Paul!

No matter where he is, who he is with, what he is doing, or circumstances…

1. **With friends… With enemies… In prison… In a storm**

Paul knows who he is, what he's about— he's rooted, anchored, grounded!

The secret to a STABLE LIFE is knowing WHY AM I HERE?

1 Cor 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God… For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved.

No matter what is happening… Paul knows… He was made to GLORIFY GOD

Turn to the person next to you… YOU WERE MADE TO GLORIFY GOD.

Wherever you are, whatever you're facing—you can glorify God right there.

FOCUS. What does a life that GLORIFIES GOD actually look like:

- **Quiet confidence**
- **Compassion for all people**
- **Intentional Fellowship.**

QUIET CONFIDENCE. Read vs1-6.

This is one of those moments that is both a literal w/ a touch of symbolic significance.

It reminds me of Jesus' words in Luke 10:18 I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy…

The snake represents the ways our enemy attacks us:

- **Deception. Gen 3:1-5, 2 Corinthians 11:3.**
- **Temptation. Gen 3:1-5.**
- **Poisonous Speech. Ps 140:3 the poison of vipers is on their lips.**
- **Persecution. Revelation 12:13-17.**

The key is how Paul responds… v5 he shook it off…

The islanders assume Paul is a murderer… justice catching up to him

Paul doesn't defend himself— w/ quiet confidence he trusts God to vindicate

Psalm 37:5 Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn, your vindication like the noonday sun.

ILLUS. Woman working at high level on a pro sports team. Slander/ Trust.

COMPASSION FOR ALL PEOPLE. Read vs 7-10.

1. **In 1905 discovered goat milk on Malta had bacteria causing "Malta Fever"**
2. **It caused at least 4 months of fever… sometimes 2 yrs!**

In this moment it's simply Paul taking an interest in a sick Father & Praying!

Remember Paul can't heal… but he took an interest…laid hands… prayed.

It's Paul's compassion for all people including Romans… that glorifies God!

Also… we saw Paul interceding for the lives of the sailors/ guards in storm!

Thru that compassion God ignites an island wide opportunity for the gospel!

Never underestimate how a simple act of compassion can open a door for the gospel!

Jesus said: Matthew 5:16 let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

As a Church we value leading with compassion in our witness…

ILLUS. Food Drive… 5,000 lbs of canned goods! Thank you Church!

Faith Challenge: Look for opportunities to pray for people this week.
- **Make it a goal to pray for someone each day.**
- **Look for the needs in peoples lives!**
- **Ask if you can pray for them.**

INTENTIONAL FELLOWSHIP. Read vs 11-16.
1. **Vs 14 There we found some brothers and sisters…**
2. **v15 The brothers and sisters… Three Taverns.**

I love this moment… after all Paul has been thru… angry mobs, false accusations, murderous conspiracies, storms, shipwrecks, snakes…

Vs15 At the sight of these people Paul thanked God and was encouraged.

When we take the trouble to gather together we GLORIFY GOD.

- **We give a physical witness to the presence of Jesus on this earth.**
- **We become conduits of God's encouragement to each other**

When Maryam a friend of mine was imprisoned in Iran… the guards had to read hundreds letters that poured in encouraging her and praying for her.

- **EVERY DAY 40-50 came in… for over 7 months.**
- **The guards read the letters… heard the gospel & witnessed love of Jesus.**
- **Maryam writes… "We don't need to read the letters to be encouraged by them, I thought, my heart filled with joy. The world is watching you. We have a family of faith that loves us and cares for us. We are not alone!" —Captive in Iran, p234.**

Sometimes we're tempted to see Church like a restaurant…
- **We dine and dash… we sing… listen to a message and hit the jet packs!**

Church is not a restaurant… it's the FAMILY OF GOD… its coming together in the kitchen to encourage one another…

God has been teaching us to LINGER…

To allow the Spirit to use us to welcome others…

ILLUS. Young Couple… people turned and greeted them… connected them…

INVITE WORSHIP TEAM. THANK YOU CHURCH!

Let's make it A WEEKLY HABIT… PAUSE… MEET 1 NEW PERSON…

- **Make Room for DIVINE APPOINTMENTS.**
- **Introduce people.**

Pray for people.