

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Acts Series

These questions are for the **August 15, 2021** sermon, "Journey's End." Please read the sermon passage (Acts 28:7-16) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

WHEN WE FIND OURSELVES DETOURED IN LIFE'S JOURNEY, CONSIDER . . .

1. The surprising opportunities God is preparing for us. (7-10)
 - a. While delayed, endangered and detoured, Paul ministers the Good News.
 - i. Publius' father is ill. The Apostle heals him and many others.
 - ii. This provides an invitation for many to trust Jesus and
 - iii. Great favor with people of Malta.
 - b. Though the cargo had been thrown overboard in the storm, the grateful Maltese people "honored Paul" and "put on board (the departing ship) whatever we needed."
 - c. Do not wait for circumstances to be ideal before ministering Jesus.
 - d. "The detours in life might be God's design for your life."
2. The encouraging encounters God is providing for us. (11-15)
 - a. In unchosen (random) places, God brings Paul to "brothers" who offer hospitality.
 - b. God uses a boat devoted to idols to fulfill his promise to Paul. Do not discount those things dedicated to idols. God can use them, too, and often does.
 - c. Paul is a high-output minister who must let other people pour into him. We must all allow others to pour into us—to receive ministry from—at various points in life.
 - d. In great affliction, Paul thanks God. He 'takes courage' because of this hospitality.
3. The strategic settings God is establishing for us (16)
 - a. God moves Paul to his promised destination with great freedoms. Rome at last!
 - b. God has moved Paul thousands of miles, positioning him in the leading city of the world for this one purpose: bear witness to Jesus Christ.
 - c. Though he has arrived at the promised destination, Paul must still finish his race.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: God often brings surprising opportunities and new relationships while conditions are not ideal. In this case, Paul heals people. You may serve, give, offer compassion. Note there is no reference to sharing the gospel (though we know he did!). In what way are you serving others and offering loving acts of service while your life is far from ideal?
2. Based on #2, above: Paul's "Type A" ministry was all about him serving others. But God put him in a position where he had to receive hospitality from others. When you are weak and needy, do you receive loving acts from others? Do you let them minister to you? Why? Why not?
3. Based on #3, above: God has orchestrated a long and arduous journey from Jerusalem to Rome. He kept his promise to get Paul to Rome alive. But Paul's work is just beginning in Rome. God was not just delivering Paul to Rome. Paul has a task, namely, to bear witness about Jesus. How has God kept promises to you? How are you turning those kept promises into ministry?