

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THOSE WHO NEVER STOP FOCUSING ON JESUS

(Acts 28:11-31)

Introduction: ¹¹ At the end of three months we set sail on an Alexandrian ship which had wintered at the island, and which had the Twin Brothers for its figurehead. ¹² After we put in at Syracuse, we stayed there for three days. ¹³ From there we sailed around and arrived at Rhegium, and a day later a south wind sprang up, and on the second day we came to Puteoli.

I. THOSE WHO FOCUS ON JESUS NEVER STOP NEEDING ENCOURAGEMENT

¹⁴ There we found *some* brethren, and were invited to stay with them for seven days; and thus we came to Rome. ¹⁵ And the brethren, when they heard about us, came from there as far as the Market of Appius and Three Inns to meet us; and when Paul saw them, he thanked God and took courage.

II. THOSE WHO FOCUS ON JESUS NEVER STOP DOING GOD'S WILL

¹⁶ When we entered Rome, Paul was allowed to stay by himself, with the soldier who was guarding him. ¹⁷ After three days Paul called together those who were the leading men of the Jews, and when they came together, he *began* saying to them, "Brethren, though I had done nothing against our people or the customs of our fathers, yet I was delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans. ¹⁸ "And when they had examined me, they were willing to release me because there was no ground for putting me to death. ¹⁹ "But when the Jews objected, I was forced to appeal to Caesar, not that I had any accusation against my nation. ²⁰ "For this reason, therefore, I requested to see you and to speak with you, for I am wearing this chain for the sake of the hope of Israel." ²¹ They said to him, "We have neither received letters from Judea concerning you, nor have any of the brethren come here and reported or spoken anything bad about you. ²² "But we desire to hear from you what your views are; for concerning this sect, it is known to us that it is spoken against everywhere." ²³ When they had set a day for Paul, they came to him at his lodging in large numbers; and he was explaining to them by solemnly testifying about the kingdom of God and trying to persuade them concerning Jesus, from both the Law of Moses and from the Prophets, from morning until evening.

III. THOSE WHO FOCUS ON JESUS NEVER STOP BELIEVING GOD'S WORD

²⁴ Some were being persuaded by the things spoken, but others would not believe. ²⁵ And when they did not agree with one another, they *began* leaving after Paul had spoken one *parting* word, "The Holy Spirit rightly spoke through Isaiah the prophet to your fathers, ²⁶ saying, 'Go to this people and say, "You will keep on hearing, but will not understand; And you will keep on seeing, but will not perceive; ²⁷ For the heart of this people has become dull, And with their ears they scarcely hear, And they have closed their eyes; Otherwise they might see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart and return, And I would heal them." ' ²⁸ "Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will also listen." ²⁹ When he had spoken these words, the Jews departed, having a great dispute among themselves. ³⁰ And he stayed two full years in his own rented quarters and was welcoming all who came to him, ³¹ preaching the kingdom of God and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered.

CONCLUSION: