

Sent to reach the World!

Acts 28:17-34

Big Idea: We exist for God's mission; so, we witness until Christ returns.

¹⁷ After three days he called together the local leaders of the Jews, and when they had gathered, he said to them, "Brothers, 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 When they had examined me, they wished to set me at liberty, because there was no reason for the death penalty in my case. ¹⁹ But because the Jews objected, I was compelled to appeal to Caesar--though I had no charge to bring against my nation. ²⁰ For this reason, therefore, I have asked to see you and speak with you, since it is because of the hope of Israel that I am wearing this chain."

²¹ And they said to him, "We have received no letters from Judea about you, and none of the brothers coming here has reported or spoken any evil about you. ²² But we desire to hear from you what your views are, for with regard to this sect we know that everywhere it is spoken against." ²³ When they had appointed a day for him, they came to him at his lodging in greater numbers. From morning till evening he expounded to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets. ²⁴ And some were convinced by what he said, but others disbelieved.

²⁵ And disagreeing among themselves, they departed after Paul had made one statement: "The Holy Spirit was right in saying to your fathers through Isaiah the prophet: ²⁶ "Go to this people, and say, You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive. ²⁷ For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed; lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, 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 listen." ³⁰ He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, ³¹ proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance

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1. Wear a chain for Jesus (vv. 17-19).
2. Use your chain to share the gospel (vv. 21-23).
3. Trust God's plan (vv. 25-28).
4. Keep sharing the gospel (vv. 30-31).

1. Wear a chain for Jesus (vv. 17-20).

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Wear your chain for God's people!

- i. Wearing a chain is a decision (vv. 17-19).**
- ii. Bearing your cross is a decision (Luke 14:27f).**
- iii. Use your chain/cross to witness for Christ (vv. 19-20).**

3 ways to wear your chain.

- i. Do what's right, no matter the cost.**
- ii. Forgive, even when you don't want to.**
- iii. Refuse to compromise your faith to fit in.**

2. Use your chain to share the gospel (vv. 21-23).

21 And they said to him, “We have received no letters from Judea about you, and none of the brothers coming here has reported or spoken any evil about you. 22 But we desire to hear from you what your views are, for with regard to this sect we know that everywhere it is spoken against.” ... From morning till evening he expounded to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets.

Use your chain to share the gospel (vv. 21-24).

- i. They had no negative view about Paul.**
- ii. They want to hear about Christianity.**
- iii. Paul expects them to dislike him.**

3 ways to use your chain to share the gospel.

- i. Put in the effort to share the gospel.**
- ii. Try to convince people about the gospel.**
- iii. Learn/Use the Bible to talk about Jesus.**

3. Trust God's plan (vv. 24-28; Isa 6:9-10)

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Shut eyes, closed ears, & hard hearts.

- i. People are stubborn (vv. 26-27; Isa 6:9-10).**
- ii. God is sovereign (v. 28; Rom 11:8).**
- iii. God loves stubborn people (vv. 30-31; Rom 5:8).**

4. Keep sharing the gospel (vv. 30-31).

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We exist for God's mission.

Keep witnessing until Christ returns.