

Shipwrecked

Pt. 4 – Snakebit!

How to survive one more storm:

Don't overreact.

Acts 28:1 Once safely on shore, we found out that the island was called Malta. ²The islanders showed us unusual kindness. They built a fire and welcomed us all because it was raining and cold. ³Paul gathered a pile of brushwood and, as he put it on the fire, a viper, driven out by the heat, fastened itself on his hand. ⁴When the islanders saw the snake hanging from his hand, they said to each other, "This man must be a murderer; for though he escaped from the sea, Justice has not allowed him to live." ⁵But Paul shook the snake off into the fire...

Remember: God is still with me.

Acts 28:5 But Paul shook the snake off into the fire and suffered no ill effects.

Mk. 16:17 And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; ¹⁸they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."

Trust God's purpose.

Acts 28:6 The people expected him to swell up or suddenly fall dead, but after waiting a long time and seeing nothing unusual happen to him, they changed their minds and said he was a god.

Exercise survivor faith!

Acts 28:7 There was an estate nearby that belonged to Publius, the chief official of the island. He welcomed us to his home and for three days entertained us hospitably. ⁸His father was sick in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him and, after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him.

Principle: My ministry will be born in my storm.

Advance the kingdom.

Acts 28:9 When this had happened, the rest of the sick on the island came and were cured.

Receive God's blessings.

Acts 28:10 They honored us in many ways and when we were ready to sail, they furnished us with the supplies we needed.

Keep going.

Acts 28:11 *After three months we put out to sea in a ship that had wintered in the island.*