

NOTE: Paul evangelizes on the isle of Malta before entering Rome. In Rome, Paul evangelizes the Jews and others, day and night, while imprisoned in chains in a small dwelling, awaiting his trial.

1. As Paul was making a fire in Malta, a viper landed on his hand. (Acts 28:3)
 - a. What was the initial reaction of the Maltese people? (Acts 28:4)
 - b. How did Paul react to the viper? (Acts 28:5)
 - c. After Paul's reaction, how did the Maltese people respond? (Acts 28:6)
2. How did Paul demonstrate his apostolic gifts on the island of Malta? (Acts 28:7-9)
3. With whom did Paul stay for seven days prior to leaving for Rome? (Acts 28:14-15)
4. Describe Paul's living conditions while a prisoner in Rome for two years. (Acts 28:16-23, 30)

Note: In keeping with his missionary custom, Paul first addresses the Jews of Rome. In fact, there is no mention of his contact with the Christians in the city. The Apostle wants to give his fellow Jews a kind of last opportunity to hear and understand the Gospel.

5. Paul presents himself as a member of the Jewish community who wants to take a normal part in the life of that community and feels he has to explain his own position. (Acts 28:17-23)
 - a. Where did Paul meet with the Jews in Rome? (Acts 28:23)
 - b. Did many come to meet with Paul? (Acts 28:23)
 - c. What do the Jewish leaders know about Paul and why he was imprisoned? (Acts 28: 23)
 - d. What did the Jewish leaders want to learn about from Paul? (Acts 28:22)
6. Paul expounded about the kingdom of God from morning to night to the many Jews in Rome who came to visit him.
 - a. How did Paul try to convince the Jews about Jesus? (Acts 28: 23)
 - b. What was the Jews' reaction to Paul's teaching? (Acts 28:24-25)
7. In talking with the Jews, Paul quoted from the prophet, Isaiah. What did the Holy Spirit say through the prophet? (Acts 28:26-27)
8. Who did Paul say would listen to the Holy Spirit? (Acts 28:28)
9. *Reflection:* Luke ends his story on a high note with Paul proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ, not about Paul's beheading in Rome. Paul the messenger was chained, but the message was not.
 - a. What "chains" hold us back from proclaiming the "Good News"?
 - b. How can we challenge ourselves to continue to proclaim the gospel and not use our "chains" to hold us back or as an excuse?