

THE BOOK OF ACTS

February 9, 2020

Acts 28:1-10

READ

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QUESTIONS for REFLECTION

1. The natives of Malta are described by Luke as “barbarians” (v. 2). Yet how did these *barbarians* respond to those marooned on their island (v. 2)?
 - (1)
 - (2)
 - (3)
2. What is the reaction to Paul’s snakebite (v. 4)? What is the reasoning behind such a reaction? Have you ever encountered that attitude?
3. Is the reasoning used by the islanders accurate? Why?
 - John 9:1-3
 - Luke 13:1-4
 - Ecclesiastes 7:15
4. Why do we have extreme examples of consequences for sin in Scripture?
 - 1 Corinthians 10:6
 - 2 Peter 2:6
 - Jude 7
5. How does God normally deal with sin (Hebrews 12:4-11)? How is this different from the reaction expressed in v. 4?
6. What is the explanation for Paul suffering no ill-effects from the viper bite (Mark 16:17-18)? Why was this promise of Jesus so important at that time?

7. How does the islanders' attitude toward Paul change when it's clear that he is unaffected by the bite (v. 6)? What is Paul's response to their reaction? How has Paul dealt with similar situations in the past (c.f., Acts 14:14-15)? What can we reasonably expect in this case?
8. Why do you think *the leading man* of the island welcomed & entertained *a prisoner* (v. 7)?
9. How was Paul involved in the healing of the father of Publius (v. 8)?
- (1)
 - (2)
 - (3)
- Paul functioned as a priest. We too, in Christ, are priests (1 Peter 2:9). How can we function as priests in regard to the afflictions of others (c.f., James 5:16)?
10. What is the reaction of the islanders to the healing of the father of Publius (v. 9)? The result?
11. Different words are used to describe the outcomes for the afflicted & diseased ("healed" & "cured"). The former suggests supernatural *healing*; the latter, "therapy," suggests natural means of being cured. What does this tell us about how to deal with our health issues?

PERSONAL RESPONSE

1. I will act as a priest this week by . . .
2. I will entrust my health to God this week by . . .