

## The Acts of the Holy Spirit

### Acts 28:1-31

Once those on the wrecked ship find out that they reside on Malta, how do the local (pagan) people treat the travelers? What extraordinary event happens to Paul, and would you describe it as miraculous or in some other terms? How do the people of the island respond to this event? In what way does this event take on a familiar feel, and in what ways does this visit have a distinctive character?

Acts 28:11-16 detail the last stops on the way to Rome. What is the character of Paul's final approach and the reception he receives in the Eternal City? In 28:17-22, what things does Paul highlight in his account of his coming to Rome, and what does he leave un-emphasized? What do the leaders of the Jewish community in Rome (historically one of the largest outside of Palestine) have to say about the Way?

Acts 28:23 is a skillful literary echo of Acts 1:3, putting bookends on the text with one key phrase. What is that phrase which frames the whole book of Acts? In what ways does that phrase serve as an especially fitting frame? The Isaiah passage cited also serves as a frame of sorts, echoing the words of Jesus in Luke 8 when he explains the purpose of parables. Why do you imagine both books emphasize this particular passage from the prophets? Does your Bible have an Acts 28:29?

What is the last word in Acts? What makes that word particularly fitting to end this narrative?