



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions God in the Storms of Life Series, Lesson 58

Lesson Title: Paul in Rome

Take Home Point: Help 'link' others to Jesus!

Warm-Up:

Imagine that you have reared your children to responsible adulthood, perhaps even assisting other children through programs such as Big Brother/Big Sister. (This may already be true for you, but if not, imagine!) You know you didn't do a perfect job, but you now have experience, understanding and knowledge about what it takes. One day you get a phone call; it's the mayor of your city who says, "We want to offer new parents education in how to raise their children, and we want you to be one of our mentoring teachers." Just what you have been waiting for! How do you respond? "Well, Mayor, I appreciate the offer but no thank you. I've done my part; I'll let others take it from here." No, you answer the call, because you believe it will help your community, and your world, be a better place.

Read: Acts 28:16-31 and Philippians 1:12-14

Observation (What happened?):

What did Paul tell the Jews after some would not believe?

How long was Paul under house arrest in Rome? How did he use the time?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think Paul called together the leaders of the Jews when he first arrived?

Insight:

It is interesting that Paul used the approach he did to present the gospel to the Jews in Rome. One of God's miracles is that he has as many ways of reaching people with the saving truth of Jesus as there are people. Our tendency is to limit God in how the gospel must be presented, even though we know it is God's work in the heart that turns someone to him. But more than our words, it is the truth of God's word powered by the Holy Spirit that convicts of sin. For example, many people accept the gift of life from Jesus only by reading the Bible. Think of that! Men who left the Earth 2,000 years ago still witness! So do others who wrote during the course of those two millennia. Today our daily attitudes and actions witness as much as our words. Of course, just like Paul in Rome, we do need to be prepared to speak clearly, connecting God's truth and gracious redemption as our basis. But our greatest weapon in the witness arsenal is prayer—that those who need Jesus will see him in whatever way God chooses. How much do you think Paul prayed over the people of Rome both before and after he arrived?

Application (What does it mean to me?):

How are you living and speaking out the Good News of Jesus our Redeemer?

Think of one person you know who needs to hear the Good News. Pray for an opportunity to present Jesus to him/her this week.