Session 8 – Following Sunday 28th February

Read Acts 28: 1 - 10

Hospitality by Publius opens the door for Paul to be clean, refreshed and fed. How does he ensure that he doesn’t lose sight of what is important? How does this become a blessing to others?

Have you ever found yourself in a situation where strangers offered you unexpected kindness? How did you respond? Did you use the opportunity to witness for Christ?

Paul hearing of the need in the household offers to pray. What might we learn from this? Do we offer to pray for others often enough? Why might we not?

Why do you think there are miracles and healings when Paul arrives in Malta? What can we learn from this about how we might approach those who don’t know Jesus? How too does it shape our prayers for them?

Julius the centurion, an important part of the storytelling in chapter 27 has totally disappeared from view. Do you think he had seen and heard enough to put his trust and hope in Jesus? If he didn’t why might he not have done?

Read Acts 28: 11 – 31

Verse 11 has an interesting detail. The ship they travelled in had as figureheads Castor and Pollux, the Greek gods and protectors of shipping. What do you think Luke the author wants us to learn from this?

Paul is welcomed by brothers and sisters when hje arrives in Italy. What effect did this have on Paul? When have other Christians welcomed you in a way that brought encouragement and hope to your life? How did you respond? Did you give God thanks for bringing these people into your life?

As he arrives in Rome, Paul was concerned first and foremost to talk to the local Jewish leaders. Why do you think this is so? how does he explain his “chains”? Why would it have been necessary to do so? What does this teach us about the importance of integrity when speaking about Jesus?

In verse 26 Paul uses some verses from Isaiah. Why does he use them? Jesus also uses them. look at Luke 8: 1 – 15. Are Paul and Jesus using these words in the same way or differently? What might we learn from this?

When people ask you about Jesus, how do you convince them to turn to him for salvation? How do you respond if the people do not believe your witness? How can we be sure people’s failure ti respond is because people’s hearts are hardened rather than because we were not convincing enough in word and deed?

It seems that Acts comes to a very sudden end. Why would Luke end his account at this point? Why might verse 31 be an encouraging place to end?

Thinking back over the series, what do you think are the main themes that Luke wanted us to grasp in writing the book of Acts? How has our series in Acts helped you grow in faith and courage?