

“SHAKE IT OFF!” (Acts 28:1-11)

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REVIEW/INTRO: What happened after the shipwreck in Acts 27 where 276 men were spared?

I. DETOURS HAPPEN (v. 1).

- A. Being shipwrecked on a remote island was not part of Paul’s five-year plan! [a detour off the main detour!]
- B. Are you currently on one of life’s detours?

II. MAKE THE BEST OF YOUR DETOURS (v. 2).

- A. Paul experienced kindness & hospitality on his detour.
 - 1. He enjoyed the scenery along the way (Phil. 4:11-13).
- B. Are you aware of and thankful for your blessings even while on one of life’s detours (1Thess. 5:18)?

III. KEEP STOKING THE FIRE (v. 3a).

- A. Paul found practical ways to make himself useful. You?
- B. Keep stoking the spiritual fire (2Tim. 1:6-7 NIV)!

IV. REALIZE THAT FIRE EXPOSES DORMANT VIPERS (v. 3b).

- A. The fire didn’t create the viper but exposed the viper.
- B. Fire exposes impurities to be purified (Mt. 3:12; Mal. 3:1-3).
- C. Satan often attacks us when we’re stoking the fire!

V. WHEN SATAN ATTACKS, OTHERS MAY JOIN HIM (v. 4).

- A. People attacked by Satan often get judged as guilty.

VI. SHAKE OFF THE EFFECTS OF THE ATTACK (vv. 5)!

- A. Forgive, be thankful, walk in faith – no pity parties.
- B. Let God be your defense (Ps. 59:9, 17; 94:22)

VII. DON’T ALLOW WHAT OTHERS SAY ABOUT YOU TO DETERMINE YOUR DESTINY (vv. 4, 6).

- A. Paul went from a good guy to a murderer in their eyes.
- B. Paul didn’t buy into that narrative.

VIII. GIVE YOURSELF TO MINISTRY TO OTHERS, REGARDLESS OF YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES (vv. 7-11a).

- A. Paul found opportunities to minister along the detour.
- B. This ministry opened the doors to other ministry.
- C. When you choose to be a blessing on your detour, God will bless you on your detour!
- D. Detours usually come to an end (v. 11a)!

CONCLUSION: Follow Paul’s example. *Shake it off! Step up!*