

Living Water Fellowship

7th Sunday after Pentecost

11th July 2021

COME TO JESUS

PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION *Breakthrough (Red Rocks Worship)*

SONG: *The Power of Your Love*

WELCOME and PRAYER OF THE DAY:

SONG: *His Love Within the World (AT 482)*

GROW IN HIS GRACE

BIBLE READING: *Acts 28:17-31*

FAITH CHAT:

SONG: *Speak O Lord*

THE MESSAGE: *GETTING OUR ACTS TOGETHER: UNFINISHED ACTS*

PRAYERS:

The Communion:

Words of Institution & The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now & forever. Amen.

Worship Video during Communion: Do It Again (Elevation Worship)

GO IN HIS POWER

BLESSING:

**† _____, (Name), † child of God, the Holy Spirit
completes in you the image & work of Christ!
Amen.**

Announcements:

SONG: *In Christ Alone*

SHOW HIS LOVE

ACTS 28:17-31

¹⁷ Three days after Paul's arrival, he called together the local Jewish leaders. He said to them, "Brothers, I was arrested in Jerusalem and handed over to the Roman government, even though I had done nothing against our people or the customs of our ancestors. ¹⁸ The Romans tried me and wanted to release me, because they found no cause for the death sentence. ¹⁹ But when the Jewish leaders protested the decision, I felt it necessary to appeal to Caesar, even though I had no desire to press charges against my own people. ²⁰ I asked you to come here today so we could get acquainted and so I could explain to you that I am bound with this chain because I believe that the hope of Israel—the Messiah—has already come."

²¹ They replied, "We have had no letters from Judea or reports against you from anyone who has come here. ²² But we want to hear what you believe, for the only thing we know about this movement is that it is denounced everywhere."

²³ So a time was set, and on that day a large number of people came to Paul's lodging. He explained and testified about the Kingdom of God and tried to persuade them about Jesus from the Scriptures. Using the law of Moses and the books of the prophets, he spoke to them from morning until evening. ²⁴ Some were persuaded by the things he said, but others did not believe. ²⁵ And after they had argued back and forth among themselves, they left with this final word from Paul: "The Holy Spirit was right when he said to your ancestors through Isaiah the prophet,

²⁶ 'Go and say to this people:

When you hear what I say, you will not understand.

When you see what I do, you will not comprehend.

²⁷ For the hearts of these people are hardened,

and their ears cannot hear, and they have closed their eyes—

so their eyes cannot see, and their ears cannot hear,

and their hearts cannot understand,

and they cannot turn to me and let me heal them.']

²⁸ So I want you to know that this salvation from God has also been offered to the Gentiles, and they will accept it.']

³⁰ For the next two years, Paul lived in Rome at his own expense. He welcomed all who visited him, ³¹ boldly proclaiming the Kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ. And no one tried to stop him.

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Acts 28:17-31. What questions immediately come to mind? What do you hear God say to you as you read it a few times to yourself? What do you find to be most important in this text? Why?
2. Take some time to read all of chapter 28. Given the long delay in travel, the shipwreck at sea, & Paul's on-going status as a prisoner, how do you think Paul felt when he finally arrived in Rome? How would he have felt in the company of the other believers?
3. Why do you think Paul took the initiative in calling the Jews to come meet with him? What three things did he tell them? How did that series of conversations turn out? How is their attitude different from that of the Jewish leadership in Jerusalem? To what do you attribute this difference?
4. Like Philip with the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8) Paul used the Law & the Prophets to demonstrate that Jesus is the Messiah for whom the Jews were hoping. Can you find 3-4 Old Testament passages that you would use to demonstrate that Jesus is in fact the "hope of Israel" & that he has truly come & established his kingdom?
5. While imprisoned at various times in his life, Paul wrote at least 4 letters that we still have in the Bible today. How do these "prison epistles" demonstrate the way Paul made the best of his situation? What was Paul's constant prayer request for himself (Eph 6:19-20; Php 1:14; Col 4:3-4)?
6. Read Isaiah 6:1-10. In order for the prophet to speak for God, what three things must happen that happened to Isaiah? How do those same things happen to us therefore equipping us to speak the good news on God's behalf? (see also 2 Cor 5:17-21)
7. In Isaiah 6:8-10, what ominous promise does God make regarding the success of Isaiah's ministry? What logical question did Isaiah raise that every witness for Christ raises (Is 6:11)? What hope or promise did God give to Isaiah in Isaiah 6:10-13? Will some always respond? Will some always reject? Compare this with Acts 28:24. Is the hardness of someone's heart an excuse to not share the gospel with them? Why/not?
8. Why do you think Luke leaves his work open-ended? What responsibility does that place on the church that survived after Paul, Peter, & the others? How well are we fulfilling that role? How well are you fulfilling that role?
9. On the way to Rome Paul told the Ephesians, "*my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.*" – Acts 20:24 Here, under the eye of guards & threat of death, "*Paul lived in Rome at his own expense. He welcomed all who visited him, boldly proclaiming the Kingdom of God & teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ. And no one tried to stop him.*" How is he accomplishing his "assigned work?" How is that an encouragement or challenge to you?