

## Sermon Discussion Guide:

# The Missional Church

Sunday, February 11, 2024

Scripture: **Acts 28:1-31**

Series: **The Spirit & The Church**

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### OVERVIEW

There are satisfying and unsatisfying movie endings. Most people prefer all loose threads to be neatly resolved and for the hero to be vindicated. We don't get that kind of satisfaction at the conclusion of the book of Acts. Paul's story is left open-ended, and only some believed the gospel. Upon careful examination, the close of Acts is more glorious than first thought when we remember it's all about establishing Christ's church and its mission. God has succeeded in launching His church to preach the good news to the whole world, and even the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. **The mission of the church calls us to cooperate in the preaching of Christ and the making of disciples.**

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### CORROBORATING TEXTS

Isaiah 6:9-10, Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 5:42

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### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Together, summarize the major narrative themes of the book of Acts.
2. Share a disappointing movie ending that became better with explanation. What made the ending better than originally thought? In what way does Acts have a great ending?
3. How would you characterize the relative goodness and hospitality of the people of Malta toward Paul? How does this compare to the reception Paul received from the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem and Caesarea?
4. Are you sometimes surprised by the goodness of non-believers? How does your faith in Jesus empower you to extend and receive hospitality even with non-believers who celebrate and participate in immorality?
5. Paul's preaching about the Kingdom of God and the gospel of Jesus Christ only resulted in "some" believing. Have you been discouraged or pessimistic about the outcomes of your evangelistic efforts? How do Acts 28:25-28 and Isaiah 6:9-10 put these outcomes in perspective? *[We are to focus on executing our mission without regard for outcomes since believing is a miraculous gift granted only by the Father. See John 6:64-65.]*
6. Jesus saves you to use you in His missional church. How might you be a part of:
  - a. Preaching Jesus Christ as the only savior of sinners
  - b. Cooperating with other churches
  - c. Teaching from all of Scripture
  - d. Embracing a confessional identity