



ACTS OF GOD

God's First churches

YES, NO & MAYBE:

1. If everything seems to be going well, I have obviously overlooked something
2. "The chance of the bread falling with the buttered side down is directly proportional to the cost of the carpet."
- *Murphy's Law.*
3. What comes around, goes around. Just wait for it...That jerk will get a taste of their own medicine.
4. God brings bad things into our lives to prove that He is real.
5. If I prayed and laid hands on sick people they would be healed.

NOTES:

DIG DEEPER:

Ø Why is it that things seem to go from bad to worse so often? Is this caused by us, or someone else? Or is this just simply Murphy's Law in motion? What has your experience been?

§ READ Acts 28:1-10 (NIV)

Once safely on shore, we found out that the island was called Malta. 2 The islanders showed us unusual kindness. They built a fire and welcomed us all because it was raining and cold. 3 Paul gathered a pile of brushwood and, as he put it on the fire, a viper, driven out by the heat, fastened itself on his hand. 4 When the islanders saw the snake hanging from his hand, they said to each other, "This man must be a murderer; for though he escaped from the sea, the goddess Justice has not allowed him to live." 5 But Paul shook the snake off into the fire and suffered no ill effects. 6 The people expected him to swell up or suddenly fall dead; but after waiting a long time and seeing nothing unusual happen to him, they changed their minds and said he was a god.

7 There was an estate nearby that belonged to Publius, the chief official of the island. He welcomed us to his home and showed us generous hospitality for three days. 8 His father was sick in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him and, after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him. 9 When this had happened, the rest of the sick on the island came and were cured. 10 They honored us in many ways; and when we were ready to sail, they furnished us with the supplies we needed.

Ø It seemed from the previous story about the storm that they were blown WAY off course by the storm, but it appears here that God kept them quite close to Italy. What does this say about God? Does He typically act this way?

Ø Isn't it bad enough suffering through a two week long storm? Why do you think God allowed Paul to get bitten by a viper?

† Does God bring these "vipers" into our experience to make a point to the faithless around us, or do you think that things like this just happen?



NOTES:

DIG DEEPER...continued:

† Why do you think the islanders had such extreme differing opinions about Paul before and after the snakebite? How do we do the same thing in the way we view "justice" today?

∅ How do you think Paul was able to heal Publius' father and all of the rest of the sick islanders? Does God still work that way today, or was that just for that time? Why?

‡ What does this say about God's character?

MY PRAYER THIS WEEK:

1. How can I allow God to use the "bad" experiences in my life as a witness?
2. How much of a "healing force" am I within my sphere of influence?
3. What new things do I see of God's infinite character now?