



July 10

Passage: Acts 28

And so we reach the end of this exciting book of Acts! I wish we had time to go through the whole thing, and really soak it up, because it's soooooo good! But for now, let's see how it ends... and how we can be challenged!

**READ & DIG: READ** Acts 28:17-31 (underline anything that sticks out!)

Goodness I just love me some Paul! If you've ever heard of someone doing a "180" in life, this is how you could picture it! Remember this was the guy who, in the beginning of our story, was putting believers in jail, and now look where he's been over and over again. And his heart is for his people to believe- read v. 20 one more time- it's for the hope of Israel that he's bound with chains! We see Paul display some characteristics that I hope we can take on ourselves:

## COMPASSION

He has such a heart for his people to know the truth, ultimately Jesus. Q. Does it bother you to know that your family, friends, neighbors, even random kids at school might not KNOW Jesus? Can you see them with compassion?

## PASSION

Paul's determination to tell as many people as possible about Jesus was obvious! Remember on one of his missionary journeys he spent time in Corinth? Listen to him describe some of his trials as he passionately takes the gospel message all over. This is just some of what he went through: READ 2 Corinthians 11:24-28

Q. Are you passionate about sharing the gospel? To what lengths are you willing to go in order to share hope with those you come in contact with?

## BOLDNESS

I absolutely love the closing verse of this book- go ahead and read v. 31 one more time. "Boldly and without hindrance..." I don't know about you, but sometimes my boldness looks more like timidity- you can look that up if you want to. Sometimes I have all the desire in my heart to go shout the gospel truth from the town square, but then something happens, and I chicken out. Is it just me? That's where the Holy Spirit comes in. Often, we know we need to speak but we keep our jaws locked and our lips sealed. Let's undo that! When you feel the prompting- the push, the "feeling"- of the Holy Spirit leading you to speak up, just open your mouth and let Him take over- He will do the work! Q. Are you willing? Are you available? Will you be obedient? Will you have boldness?

## APPLY AND GO

Although we've gotten to read about a couple of awesome early church leaders in this book- Peter and Paul- it's important to remember that they're not the Hero. God is always the hero! In my "church Bible" I actually have written under the title of Acts: better titled "The Acts of the Holy Spirit [through the Apostles]". The Holy Spirit is the one doing the extraordinary work, He's just using a few ordinary people to do it! Q. Will you be one of those ordinary people? Will you let Him work in and through you?