



Dwelling in the Word

August 2020

Dwelling in the Word is an ancient way of reading the Scripture. Dwelling in the Word is a way of spiritually submitting to the text as one way God speaks to us, with a willingness to be shaped by what God might want to say through the Scripture. In this way, we are being interpreted by the text together as we listen to it. Our hope is that this passage will be read and discussed before every meeting and visit that takes place in or through our ministries. Our hope is that this practice will help us all to become more spiritually astute, more vulnerable, and more in tune with God's will for us and our church.

Paul was on his way to Rome to be tried as a political rebel, when the ship carrying him and 274 prisoners was caught in a violent wind and they all swam ashore to the island of Malta, just south of Sicily in the Mediterranean Sea.

Acts 28:1-10

¹After we had reached safety, we then learned that the island was called Malta. ²The natives showed us unusual kindness. Since it had begun to rain and was cold, they kindled a fire and welcomed all of us around it. ³Paul had gathered a bundle of brushwood and was putting it on the fire, when a viper, driven out by the heat, fastened itself on his hand. ⁴When the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, "This man must be a murderer; though he has escaped from the sea, justice has not allowed him to live." ⁵He, however, shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm. ⁶They were expecting him to swell up or drop dead, but after they had waited a long time and saw that nothing unusual had happened to him, they changed their minds and began to say that he was a god.

⁷Now in the neighborhood of that place were lands belonging to the leading man of the island, named Publius, who received us and entertained us hospitably for three days. ⁸It so happened that the father of Publius lay sick in bed with fever and dysentery. Paul visited him and cured him by praying and putting his hands on him. ⁹After this happened, the rest of the people on the island who had diseases also came and were cured. ¹⁰They bestowed many honors on us, and when we were about to sail, they put on board all the provisions we needed.



✘ Take time to discuss any or all of these questions.

1. Why would Luke (the writer of Acts) call the kindness of the Maltese people "unusual" (v. 1)?
2. What does this passage teach us about hospitality?
3. What do the Maltese people believe about cause-and-effect (v. 4)? Do you think this way too?
4. Have you ever experienced healing from God (whether instantaneous or gradual)?
5. What does this passage teach us about the role of the church and individual Christians?