



Week 29: Don't Waste Your Malta

Acts 28 reminds us that life rarely unfolds the way we imagined. Paul finally reaches the last leg of his journey to Rome, but only after a shipwreck, a snake bite, and an unexpected stop on the island of Malta. Instead of focusing on what he had lost or where he wished he was, Paul embraced the assignment God had placed in front of him. Our greatest joy isn't found when every conflict is resolved but when we faithfully live on mission wherever God has us. He wants to use our unexpected detours to shape us, serve others, and point people to Jesus until the day He brings ultimate redemption and resolution to our stories.

Discussion Questions:

1. Read Acts 28:1-14. Paul saw Malta as an assignment rather than a detour. Looking back on your life, can you identify a "Malta" that you initially resisted but now recognize God used to shape your character or impact someone else's life? Looking back, where can you now see God's hand at work?
2. One of the greatest sources of frustration is expecting life to resolve on our timeline. Where are you tempted to believe, *"I'll fully trust God when..."* or *"I'll serve God after..."*? What would it look like to live on mission even if that situation never changes?
3. Most of us naturally ask, "Why?" Shawn challenged us to ask different questions like, "Who here needs my help?" And "What does God want me to learn?" How might that change the way we view our current circumstances?
4. What area of your life are you most tempted to "waste your Malta" right now? What is one specific step you can take this week to embrace that circumstance as God's assignment instead of simply something to endure or escape?