

## Sermon Discussion – 29 October 2023

Read Acts 28:16-31

### **Getting Started** *Sharing from personal experience*

Discuss what it means for the church to be "Plan A" in God's design for the world. How does this perspective impact your understanding of the church's role and mission in the world?

### **Observation** *Discovering the context*

What background can you recall that leads up to this passage (both Acts as a whole, as well as the couple chapters prior to the passage)?

- Why do you think Paul took the initiative to call the meeting with the Jewish leaders in Rome (v.17-20)?
- What does this say about Paul's mission (both what it was, as well as his approach)?

### **Interpretation** *Discovering the meaning*

1. Consider the analogy of being a "fork in the road" for Christ. How does this concept challenge you in terms of your impact on others' faith journeys?
2. Discuss the three characteristics mentioned in the sermon: wearing a chain, having one message, and knowing what is never hindered. Which of these resonates with you the most, and why?
3. Reflect on the message your life currently conveys. Is it aligned with the message of the kingdom of God and Jesus? How might you adjust your priorities to reflect this central message?
4. Paul's imprisonment didn't hinder the spread of the gospel; in fact, it led to the conversion of guards and emboldened other believers. Can you think of a time in your life when a difficult circumstance actually led to a positive outcome in your faith journey or the faith journey of others?
5. Discuss the idea that the gospel cannot be restrained, even if individual believers may face hindrances. How does this truth provide encouragement in times of difficulty or opposition?

**Application** *Putting knowledge into practice*

- The sermon ends with a call to action, asking each person to consider what they will do as part of God's Plan A. Take a moment to reflect on this question and share any specific steps or commitments you feel led to make.
- Is there a specific area in your life where you feel challenged to be a more significant influence for Christ? How can you actively pursue being a "fork in the road" in that area? Take some time to pray for guidance and empowerment in this.
- Try memorising Acts 28:20...  
*"For this reason, therefore, I have asked to see you and speak with you, since it is because of the hope of Israel that I am wearing this chain."*
- How has God blessed you and answered prayer this week?