



Don't Play with Snakes

By Taylor Braswell on July 5, 2022

TODAY'S READING: Acts 28

If you have ever wondered why some denominations mess with snakes, today is your lucky day! Some denominations have misinterpreted Mark 16:18 and passages like Acts 28:1-10. These people believe we are commanded to hold snakes. Christian, it is important to understand that some things in the Bible are descriptive (describing something that happened) and some things in the Bible are prescriptive (God commanding us to do something). Things like slavery, murder and polygamy are described in the Bible, but this does not mean God designed us to live this way.

In Acts 28:1-10, Paul is shipwrecked on an island and is bitten by a viper while getting firewood. Now, put yourself in Paul's position for a moment. You are doing what God has called you to do and you find yourself arrested and now shipwrecked. So, you have almost just died at sea and when you get to shore, you are just trying to start a fire so you and the crew can live, then a viper comes out of nowhere and bites you! If I was Paul, I would have thought, "God why are you letting this happen to me!?" The locals who lived in the Island assumed Paul had committed some horrible crime because he was on a ship of prisoners and thought justice was being done when Paul was bitten. To their amazement, Paul threw off the snake into the fire and was fine. (Side note, I think this is how we should deal with all snakes. I hate snakes!) These locals knew Paul was no ordinary man.

Think about a time you were in a situation that you deemed was a horrible situation. Maybe something happened to you that was out of your control or maybe you were sick. I want you to be encouraged by what happened to Paul in verses 7 to 10. Paul was taken to a sick man and healed him and then began to heal other people on this island! We do not have it recorded here, but I believe Paul probably shared the gospel with these people as well. Sometimes, God allows us to be in situations that we may not understand or like so He can work through us! Look around in the midst of your circumstances this week and ask God to use you to reach the people around you.

PRAYER: Father, You are sovereign and all powerful. Thank You for promising me that you have a plan for my life. Help me see the people around me who need Christ in whatever circumstance I find myself.

TOMORROW'S READING: Colossians 1

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