



When You Are in  
Malta...  
Divine Interruption  
or Kingdom  
Opportunity?

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**CONNECT**  
CONFERENCE 2025

# FIRST...THE MEMORY TEST

- ▶ SENSORY MEMORY ½ SECOND
- ▶ SHORT TERM MEMORY 20 SECONDS
- ▶ LONG TERM MEMORY PERMANENT
  
- ▶ “Come on Paul.... You must get to Rome!”
- ▶ (That's it.)



# Scripture

Acts 28:1-11a Paul in  
Malta



Ephesians 5:15-16  
“Use every  
opportunity”

# Goal

At times we experience unanticipated delays, reversals and interruptions.

What will we do during those times?

Can we bring the Kingdom of God to our 'Divine Interruptions?'

Where is your "Malta" experience now?

# MEDIATION

- ▶ SHIELD
  - ▶ SWORD
  - ▶ STAFF
- 
- ▶ REMINDER. “COME ON PAUL...YOU MUST GET TO ROME!”

# Introduction

Who? Paul

What?  
Shipwreck! An  
Interruption!

When? On his  
way to Rome to  
stand trial

Why? Because  
of his faith in  
Christ and false  
accusations

Where? On the  
Island of Malta

How?  
Well....let's find  
out!

# Introduction

REMEMBER A TIME WHEN YOUR PLANS 'DID NOT WORK OUT'?

AIRPORT DELAY? FLAT TIRE?  
BAD DR. REPORT? ILLNESS?

WHEN ARE SOME OTHER TIMES ?



**When You Are On Time**



**But Flight Is Delayed**







# Background to the Story

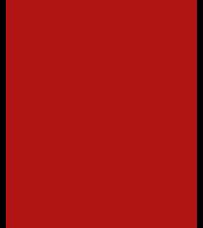
Acts 21:27, -26 Paul's arrest,  
trial, appeal to Caesar

Acts 27 Paul's voyage and  
shipwreck "I told you so!"

Acts 28 Where are we?  
Malta!!

How long? 3-month delay!

Divine Interruption or  
Kingdom Opportunity?



Where in the world is Malta?









So...What  
Happened in  
Malta?



The Visit to  
Publius  
Chief  
official of  
Malta

# What Else Happened in Malta?

Acts 28:9 Many others  
on the island were  
healed

We assume they were  
also introduced to  
Jesus Christ since Paul  
always gave glory to  
God

Acts 28:10 The people  
'honored us' in many  
ways'

They furnished  
supplies

We left on our way to  
Rome (AFTER A 3  
MONTH DELAY!)

What  
Remained in  
Malta?

The Kingdom of God

Transformed lives

Likely the establishment  
of the Church

# Where is your Malta?

What will you  
do in your  
Malta?

Ephesians 5:15-  
16 “Every  
opportunity...”

Romans 8:28-29  
“In all things  
God works for  
the good...”

Every means  
every

All means all



# WHAT CAN I EXPECT NOW?

- ▶ SHOCK
- ▶ STORM
- ▶ SEARCH
- ▶ SEQUEL

# SHOCK

FIGHT OR FLIGHT

NUMBNESS

DISORIENTATION

DISBELIEF – “This  
can’t be true!”

USUALLY LASTS  
THE FIRST FEW  
HOURS

# STORM

WITHDRAWAL –  
CONFUSION

UNCERTAINTY

ANGER-FEAR-GUILT-  
RAGE

PERPLEXED

WHAT IS NEEDED –  
TASK Oriented  
Direction

- LASTS FOR DAYS
- DEBRIEF

# SEARCH

- ▶ SEARCH FOR NEW STABILITY
- ▶ WHERE WILL WE GO AS A FAMILY (CHURCH)?
- ▶ POSITIVE THOUGHTS WILL BEGIN AGAIN
- ▶ THE NEED FOR RECKONING...WHAT GOOD CAN GOD BRING FROM THIS?
  - ▶ LASTS FOR WEEKS



# SEQUEL

WE WILL GO ON  
AND LIVE OUR  
LIVES

I WILL LOOK FOR  
NEW  
OPPORTUNITIES

WE WILL LIVE IN  
HOPE

WE WILL STAY  
ATTACHED TO  
ONE ANOTHER

THIS WILL BE A  
STEPPINGSTONE  
• MAY TAKE SEVERAL  
MONTHS



AND THE LORD  
SAYS.....

FEAR NOT!

*And We  
Say...*  
**“WHY NOT  
FEAR?”**

- ▶ AFTER ALL....
  - ▶ WE DON'T HAVE A (PASTOR, CHURCH, JOB, SPOUSE, CHILD, ETC.)
  - ▶ THIS IS THE ONLY LIFE WE HAVE KNOWN
  - ▶ WE MAY LOSE THE HOUSE
  - ▶ WHERE ARE OUR FRIENDS?
  - ▶ *WHY NOT FEAR...*IT'S THE REASONABLE THING TO DO ISN'T IT?



First  
“Why”  
..... then  
“What”

A hand is shown from the bottom, holding a piggy bank. The background is a soft, golden sunset or sunrise over a landscape, with a rainbow visible on the left side. The overall mood is warm and hopeful.

## FINDING MY “WHY?”

- ▶ FINDING MY PURPOSE IN LIFE
  - ▶ TO LOVE GOD WITH ALL OF MY HEART, SOUL, MIND AND STRENGTH
  - ▶ TO DO WHAT NEEDS DONE
  - ▶ IN THE PLACES WHERE THE NEEDS ARE GREATEST

# “What Is Really Important?”

- ▶ Why we exist
- ▶ Mission
- ▶ Vision
- ▶ Intention (Strategic Plan)
- ▶ Means (Tactical Plan)
- ▶ Commitment to our ministerial community



# 5 Habits of GREATNESS

- ▶ HUMILITY

# Remember

DO NOT  
DOUBT IN THE  
NIGHT

WHAT GOD  
HAS REVEALED  
IN THE DAY

HE KEEPS HIS  
PROMISES TO  
YOU!!!!!!



Some Lessons I've Learned in Malta











# Conclusion

Where is YOUR Malta?

What will you do in Malta?

Divine Interruption...Kingdom Opportunity!

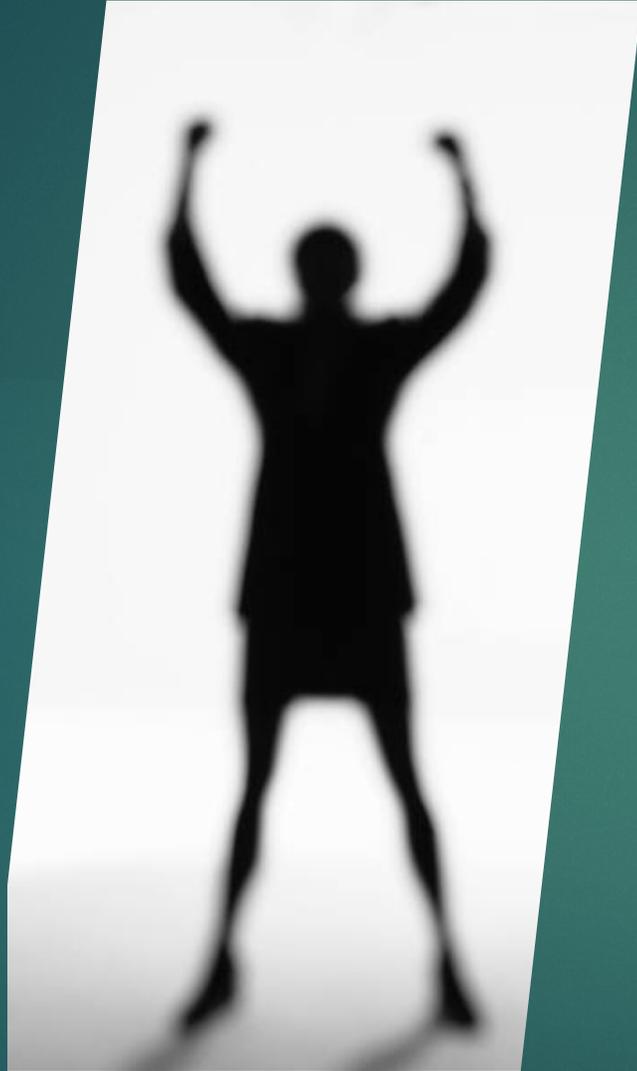
How can we pray with you in your Malta?

# **Run to Win** **Not a Sprint...**



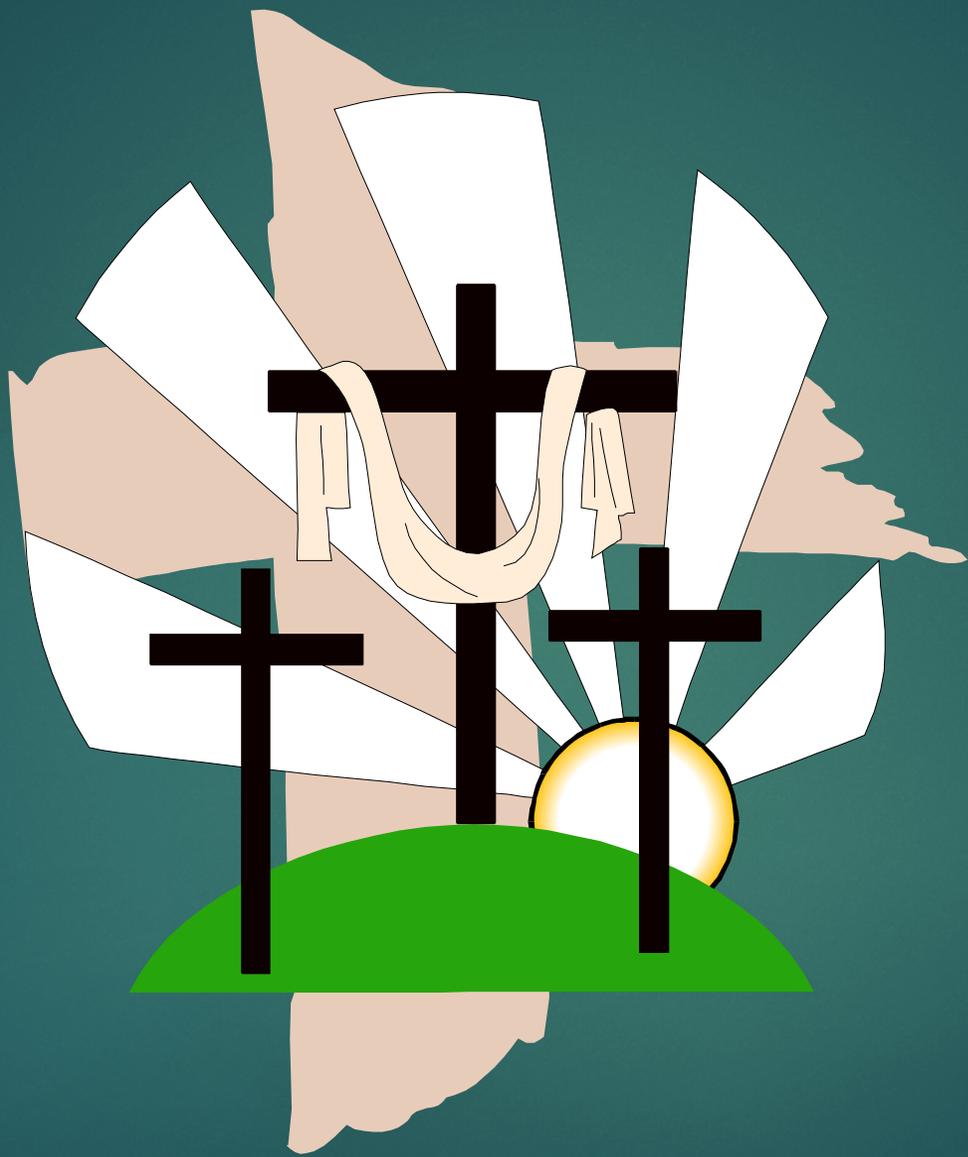


**I have fought the good fight,  
I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.  
Now there is in store for me the crown of  
righteousness, which the Lord ...will award to me  
on that day. *2 Tim. 4:7-8***



Why? Because  
People  
Remember...

- ▶ How we lived
- ▶ How we loved
- ▶ How we left
  - ▶ FINISH WELL!



Amen.