

# CONFINED

## *Week Five – Failure*

*“Once safely on shore, we found out that the island was called Malta. The islanders showed us unusual kindness. They built a fire and welcomed us all because it was raining and cold. Paul gathered a pile of brushwood and, as he put it on the fire, a viper, driven out by the heat, fastened itself on his hand. When the islanders saw the snake hanging from his hand, they said to each other, ‘This man must be a murderer; for though he escaped from the sea, Justice has not allowed him to live.’ – Acts 28:1-4*

*“But Paul shook the snake off into the fire and suffered no ill effects. The people expected him to swell up or suddenly fall dead, but after waiting a long time and seeing nothing unusual happen to him, they changed their minds and said he was a god. There was an estate nearby that belonged to Publius, the chief official of the island. He welcomed us to his home and for three days entertained us hospitably. His father was sick in bed suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him and, after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him. When this had happened, the rest of the sick on the island came and were cured. They honored us in many ways and when we were ready to sail they furnished us with the supplies we needed.” – Acts 28:5-10*

### **What we perceive as failures just may be God’s Divine Appointments.**

*“But the other criminal rebuked him. ‘Don’t you fear God,’ he said, ‘since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.’” – Luke 23:40-41*

*“Then he said, ‘Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.’ Jesus answered him, ‘I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.’” – Luke 23:42-43*

*“The next day we landed at Sidon; and Julius, in kindness to Paul, allowed him to go to his friends so they might provide his needs.” – Acts 27:3*

*“We made slow headway for many days and had difficulty arriving off Cnidus. When the wind did not allow us to hold our course, we sailed to the lee of Crete, opposite Salmone.” – Acts 27:7*

*“When a gentle south wind began to blow, they thought they had obtained what they wanted; so they weighed an anchor and sailed along the shore of Crete.” – Acts 27:13*

*“The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along.” – Acts 27:15*

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*“We took such a violent battering from the storm that the next day they began to throw cargo overboard.” – Acts 27:18*

*“The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.” – John 3:8*

*“To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.” – Revelation 3:7-8*

*“In that day I will summon my servant, Eliakim son of Hilkiah. I will clothe him with your robe and fasten your sash around him and hand your authority over to him. He will be a father to those who live in Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. I will place on his shoulder the key to the house of David; what he opens no one can shut and what he shuts no one can open. I will drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will be a seat of honor for the house of his father. All the glory of his family will hand on him: its offspring and offshoots – all its lesser vessels, from the bowls to all the jars.” – Isaiah 22:20-24*

*“We must never put our dreams of success as God’s purpose for us. The question of getting to a particular end is mere incident. What we call the process, God calls the end. His purpose is that I depend on him and on his power now. It is the process, not the end, which is glorifying to God.” – Oswald Chambers*

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*“being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” – Philippians 1:6*

**Two options when you don’t like your circumstances:**

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2. \_\_\_\_\_

*“People are always blaming their circumstances. The people who get on in the world are the people who get up and look for the circumstances they want and if they can’t find them, make them.” – George Bernard Shaw*

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