

Where's Your Chair?

Acts 28 11-22



To you, O my strength, will I sing;
for you, O God, are my refuge, my God of steadfast love.
Psalm 59:20

Praising:

Abide among us as our shield,
O Captain of thy host;
that to the world we may not
yield,
nor e'er forsake our post.

Reading:

Acts 28:11-22
Paul reaches Rome

Although three months have passed for Paul on Malta, by the time he arrives at Rhegium (the port of Rome) more than thirty years have passed since Paul first began preaching Christ to his own people the Jews. When finally he reaches Rome itself, Paul is relieved and reassured to be greeted by a welcoming party of fellow Christians. He will not face his appearance before the Emperor without friendly local support. The reception Paul

receives from the local Jewish community is more cautious. While they have heard nothing incriminating about Paul himself, they have certainly heard disparaging reports about the Christian movement he represents. If this is the reaction Paul has come to expect from his Jewish brothers and sisters, he shows no sign of letting it discourage him. At least these Roman Jews are willing to canvas opinion.

Listening:

Praying:

Lord we pray for our spiritual role as encouragers

- to draw alongside those who minister the truth of Christ with love and support
- to be sensitive to the wounds, injuries and knock-downs your followers face continually
- to persevere in witness ourselves, in spite of the mistrust, in spite of the rejection

Father: when hostility and opposition feel everywhere around me, bring to my mind the ones who love me, pray for me and build me up. And the one who died for me and rose again. Amen

Doing:

Tuesday, 26 July 2016