# Jesus presented at the temple

*Disclaimer: this is an automatically generated machine transcription - there may be small errors or mistranscriptions. Please refer to the original audio if you are in any doubt.*

Date: 14 December 2025

Preacher: Graham Bland

[0:00] Well, friends, this is it. It's the beginning of the end. The final part of our journey through! The book of Acts started almost a year ago, early January this year, as we explored and dug into the book of Acts.

And I hope you've loved it and enjoyed it. I hope it's caused you to want to draw closer to our wonderful Father in heaven, to God being God in our lives. I hope it's changed our sense of devotion and care for one another as a church. And I pray it's also inspired us to be more devoted to sharing that good news which we enjoy with those people that God puts around us.
I hope, ultimately, we are being drawn to greater devotion to God. Our greatest desire would be to see his kingdom come in our lives and the life or the lives of everyone we know and care for and love. We're going to finish with reading a passage in Acts 28, starting verse 11. It's a continuation of the story which we've been looking at over the last couple of weeks of Paul's, what's called his third missionary journey, where he's been taken to Rome.
And Anthony covered a lot of that last week, maps, which was really helpful in terms of just seeing it's a long journey of Paul going to Rome in order to stand trial. And so we're digging in at verse 11, and this is what Acts 28, verse 11 onwards says.
After three months, we put out to seed in a ship that had been wintering on the island, that had wintered in the island. It was an Alexandrian ship with the figurehead of the twin gods, Castor and Pollux. We put in at Syracuse and stayed there three days. From there, we set sail and arrived at Erechium. The next day, the south wind came up and on the following day, we reached Puteoli. There we found some brothers and sisters who invited us to spend a week with them. And so we came to Rome. The brothers and sisters there had heard that we were coming and they travelled as far as the Forum of Appius and the three taverns to meet us. At the sight of these people, Paul thanked God and was encouraged. When we got to Rome, Paul was allowed to live by himself with a soldier to guard him. And three days later, he called together the local Jewish leaders. When they had dissembled, Paul said to them, my brothers, although I've done nothing against our people or against the customs of our ancestors, I was arrested in Jerusalem and handed over to the Romans. This is the story we've been covering over the last couple of weeks. They examined me and wanted to release me because I was not guilty of any crime deserving death. The Jews objected, so I was compelled to make an appeal to Caesar.
[3:19] I certainly did not intend to bring any charge against my own people. For this reason, I have asked to see you and talk with you. It's because of the hope of Israel that I'm bound with this chain. Wow. It's because of the hope of Israel, Jesus, that I'm bound with this chain. They replied, we have not received any letters from the Judea concerning you and none of our people who have come from there has reported or said anything bad about you. But we want to hear what your views are. For we know that people everywhere are talking against this sect.

They arranged to meet Paul on a certain day and came in even larger numbers to the place where he was staying. He witnessed to them from morning till evening, explaining about the kingdom of God and from the law of Moses and from the prophets. He tried to persuade them about Jesus. Jesus. Some weren't convinced by what he said, sorry, were convinced by what he said, but others would not believe. They disagreed among themselves and began to leave after Paul had made this final statement.
The Holy Spirit spoke the truth to your ancestors when he said through Isaiah the prophet, go to these people and say, you will be ever hearing, but never understanding.

Downloaded from https://yetanothersermon.host