

# Acts 28:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And from thence, when the brethren heard of us, they came to meet us as far as Appii forum, and The three taverns: whom when Paul saw, he thanked God, and took courage.

## Analysis

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**When the brethren heard of us**—News of Paul's arrival spread rapidly through Italy's Christian network. Believers traveled 40 miles south to **Appii forum** and 33 miles to **The three taverns** to meet Paul's company. This sacrificial journey demonstrated the Roman church's love for an apostle they'd never met but knew through his epistle (written 3-4 years earlier).

**Whom when Paul saw, he thanked God, and took courage** (ἔλαβεν θάρσος, elaben tharsos)—Even apostles needed encouragement. The Greek θάρσος (tharsos) means confidence or boldness restored. Their presence confirmed that Paul's ministry in Rome wouldn't be isolated—a believing community awaited. God uses His people to strengthen His servants for coming trials.

## Historical Context

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Appii Forum (43 miles from Rome) and Three Taverns (33 miles out) were stations on the Via Appia. The delegation's organization suggests Roman Christians had excellent communication networks. Paul approached Rome not as conquering evangelist but as grateful prisoner, encouraged by love shown.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How can you proactively encourage those facing trials or entering new, intimidating situations?
2. What does Paul's need for encouragement teach about vulnerability and interdependence in Christian leadership?

## Interlinear Text

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κάκεῖθεν	οἱ	ἀδελφοὶ	ἀκούσαντες	τὰ	περὶ	ἡμῶν
<b>And from thence</b>	G3588	<b>when the brethren</b>	<b>heard</b>	G3588	<b>of</b>	<b>us</b>
G2547		G80	G191		G4012	G2257
ἐξῆλθον	εἰς	ἀπάντησιν	ἡμῖν	ἄχρις	Ἀππίου	Φόρου καὶ
<b>they came</b>	G1519	<b>to meet</b>	<b>us</b>	<b>as far as</b>	<b>Appii</b>	<b>forum</b> <b>and</b>
G1831		G529	G2254	G891	G675	G5410 G2532
Τριῶν	Ταβερνῶν	οὓς	ἰδὼν	ὁ	Παῦλος	εὐχαριστήσας
<b>The three</b>	<b>taverns</b>	<b>whom</b>	<b>saw</b>	G3588	<b>when Paul</b>	<b>he thanked</b>
G5140	G4999	G3739	G1492		G3972	G2168
τῷ	θεῷ	ἔλαβεν	θάρσος			
G3588	<b>God</b>	<b>and took</b>	<b>courage</b>			
	G2316	G2983	G2294			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Hebrews 13:3** (Parallel theme): Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body.

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