

Acts Chapter 27

Love God and Others

- **Saul BC:** Fighting God
- **Conversion:** Saul become Paul
- **Paul AD:** Trying to close the deal with King Agrippa
- **Appeals to Caesar**

“This man might have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar.”

I. Sailing to Rome

Acts 19:21 “After I have been [to Jerusalem], **I must also see Rome.**”

1 And when it was decided that we should sail to Italy, they delivered Paul and some other prisoners to one named Julius, a centurion of the Augustan Regiment.

- It was decided ...**we should sail?**
 1. **Paul:** Only prisoner that is a Roman citizen?
 2. **Luke:** Ships Doctor?
 3. **Others:** Death row criminals
 - a) Become gladiators or...
 - b) Dinner for wild beasts...For now **Paul’s congregation**

Acts 26:18 [Jesus charge to Paul] ...to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God

- Jesus came to set the prisoners free...

Luke 4:18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim **liberty to the captives** And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed...”

- **Floating Church** sailing to Rome
- **Roman Overseer:** Centurion Julius

Paul’s 4th Missionary Journey in chains [JV McGee]

2 Timothy 2:9 ... I suffer trouble as an evildoer, even to the point of chains; **but the word of God is not chained.**

- Not suffering in vain...

Philippians 1:12 ...I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, 13 so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, **that my chains are in Christ**; 14 and most of the brethren in the Lord, having **become confident by my chains**, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

2 So, entering a ship of Adramyttium, we put to sea, meaning to sail along the coasts of Asia. Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, was with us.

Journey begins!

The final and most exciting travelogue of the Book of Acts [JV McGee]

- **Sail along the Coast of Asia;** i.e. Ephesus
 1. Paul would recall his experience at Ephesus
 - a) Tentmaker
 - b) Healed and Cast out demons in Name of Jesus
 - c) 7 Sons of Sceva: Naked and Bleeding
 - d) Riot started by silversmith [Doll maker] Diana
 - e) Elders "I have not shunned to preach the whole council of God"
- Stayed close to the coast before setting out to sea
- **Fellow Traveler Aristarchus:** Macedonian of Thessalonica

3 And the next day we landed at Sidon. And Julius treated Paul kindly and gave him liberty to go to his friends and receive care.

- **Down the coast to Sidon;** i.e. Lebanon
- **Roman Centurion Julius:**
 1. Treats Paul with kindness
 2. Allows free reign of the ship

Why would the unsaved *sometimes* treat us with kindness?

- **2 Reasons:**
 1. **Self-Righteousness:**
 1. Prove to us we they are good people [Better than us]
 2. Can do it without God
 2. **Ripe for Salvation...**

2 Corinthians 2:14 Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. 15 For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. 16 To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life.

- **Aroma** of life to "those who being saved" Smell good to them; want what we have

4 When we had put to sea from there, we sailed under the **shelter of Cyprus**, because the winds were contrary.

- **From Lebanon to the "shelter of Cyprus"**
 1. Lit. South of Cyprus
 2. Protection from North winds

5 And when we had sailed over the sea which is off Cilicia and Pamphylia, we came to Myra, a city of Lycia...

- **Myra of Lycia:** Transfer onto various merchant transport ships

6 There the centurion found an Alexandrian ship sailing to Italy, and he put us on board

- **Centurion** “found an Alexandrian ship”
 1. Up from North Africa and on way to Italy
 2. **Put us on board:** 276 People crowd into the ship

7 When we had sailed slowly many days, and arrived with difficulty off Cnidus, the wind not permitting us to proceed, we sailed **under the shelter of Crete** off Salmone. 8 Passing it with difficulty, we came to a place called **Fair Havens**, near the city of Lasea.

- Sailed slowly “many days” due to opposing winds
 1. **Crete:** Located off both coast of Asia Minor and coast of Greece
 2. **Fair Havens:** Bay on south side of Crete w/ reputation for bad storms

SUMMARY: Sailing to Rome. Wind is contrary. Tempest is brewing.

II. Godly Council Unheeded

9 Now when much time had been spent, and sailing was now dangerous because the Fast was already over, Paul advised them, 10 saying, “**Men, I perceive that this voyage will end with disaster** and much loss, not only of the cargo and ship, but also our lives.”

- **Fast was over:** Day of Atonement October 5th AD 59
- **Dangerous season:** Mid-September to Mid-October

Winter is approaching and sailing is dangerous!

- **2 Precarious Choices:**
 1. Fair Havens
 2. Leave for open sea
- **Apostle Paul’s Warning:** Sail from here and lose both lives and cargo
 1. Paul already travelled 3500 mile by sea
 2. Paul already involved in 3 Shipwrecks

2 Corinthians 11:25 Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep...

- More than practical experience Paul offered guidance by the **Spirit of God**
- **“I perceive this will end in disaster”** God-given advice

11 **Nevertheless** the centurion was more persuaded by the helmsman and the owner of the ship than by the things spoken by Paul.

**How many tragedies could have been avoided if we listened to wise godly council?
Wise council given...nevertheless...**

Proverbs 12:15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But he who heeds counsel is wise.

Proverbs 11:14 Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.

Proverbs 13:10 By pride comes nothing but strife, But with the well-advised is wisdom.

Proverbs 19:20 Listen to counsel and receive instruction, that you may be wise in your latter days. [no fool like an old fool]

Proverbs 24:6 For by wise counsel you will wage your own war, And in a multitude of counselors there is safety.

Proverbs 27:9 Ointment and perfume delight the heart, And the sweetness of a man's friend gives delight by hearty counsel.

Proverbs 15:31 The ear that hears the rebukes of life Will abide among the wise. 32 He who disdains instruction despises his own soul, But he who heeds rebuke gets understanding. 33 The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom, And before honor is humility.

- Rehoboam son of Solomon sought advice on how to rule the Kingdom of Israel
- Given sound advice from the elders... **"Treat God's people well!"**

1 Kings 12:8 But [Rehoboam] rejected the advice which the elders had given him, and consulted the young men who had grown up with him, who stood before him. 9 And he said to them, "What advice do you give? How should we answer this people who have spoken to me, saying, 'Lighten the yoke which your father put on us?'"

- Listened to **advice from ungodly friends; "Treat the people harshly"**
 1. **Kingdom splits in two:** Divorce
 2. **Disunity and confusion:** Unable to make wise decisions
 3. **Civil was within:** Shame/Guilt

How many tragedies could have been avoided if we listened to wise godly council?

12 And because the harbor was not suitable to winter in, the majority advised to set sail from there also, if by any means they could reach Phoenix, a harbor of Crete opening toward the southwest and northwest, and winter there.

- Against Paul's advice attempt to sail to larger city of Phoenix before winter
- Majority rule? Not the biblical model for church government. Headed for disaster

SUMMARY: Godly Council Unheeded. Tempest has arrived

III. Tempest Tossed

13 When the south wind blew softly, supposing that they had obtained their desire, putting out to sea, they sailed close by Crete.

- **Looked as if Paul were wrong:**
 1. South wind blowing softly
 2. Beautiful sunny day

"Look, we have trusted in our instinct/heart/self and came out just fine!"

No. Just the Calm before the Storm

Proverbs 14:12 There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

Luke 7:35 "...But wisdom is justified by all her children."

- Not long until wisdom is proven out...

14 But not long after, a tempestuous head wind arose, called Euroclydon.

- **Euroclydon:** "a violent agitation"
- Storm coming down from Europe **raising mighty waves**

15 So when the ship was caught, and could not head into the wind, we let her drive.

- **Let her drive:** Let the wheel of ship go

God's will to bring us to the point of letting go of the wheel!

16 And running under the shelter of an island called Clauda, we secured the skiff with difficulty.

- **Secured the skiff:** Small boat towed behind but taken on-board during bad storms

17 When they had taken it on board, they used cables to undergird the ship

- **Cables to undergird the ship:** Also called "frapping" to prevent busting up
 1. Swimming underneath

Last ditch effort. Scurrying now to right the wrong

...and fearing lest they should run aground on the Syrtis Sands, they struck sail and so were driven.

- **Syrtis Sands:** Coast of North Africa and graveyard of many ships.

We are Doomed. We must do something. Confusion

18 And because we were exceedingly tempest-tossed, the next day they lightened the ship. 19 On the third day we threw the ship's tackle overboard with our own hands.

- **Exceedingly Tempest tossed:** Been there?
- Continue to throw off excess weight

Amazing how priorities change when we are tempest-tossed!

20 Now when neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest beat on us, all hope that we would be saved was finally given up.

- **Many days:**

1. Sun not seen by day
2. Stars not seen by night

...all hope that we would be saved was finally given up.

- **Humanly nothing more we can do**...good place to be...look up!

21 But after long abstinence from food, then Paul stood in the midst of them and said, "Men, you should have listened to me, and not have sailed from Crete and incurred this disaster and loss.

"I told you so"

22 And now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship.

- Take heart; i.e. be of good cheer
- No one will die but the ship is toast

Paul remembers God's previous Promise!

Acts 23:11 ... the following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Be of good cheer, Paul; for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so **you must also bear witness at Rome.**"

God continues to encourage Paul!

23 For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve, 24 saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you.'

- **Angel of God**
 1. God whom I belong
 2. God whom I serves

You will never be sure of if you belong to God until you begin serving God

"God has **granted you** all those who sail with you."
God encourages Paul. Paul encourages others

25 Therefore take heart, men, for **I believe God** that it will be just as it was told me. 26 However, we must run aground on a certain island."

- **Good news:** You will live
- **Bad news:** Ship will be destroyed
- **We will run aground on a certain island:**
 1. Paul not sure which island...not all information given
 2. LORD is a "Light unto our feet" Malta [Acts 28:1]

NOT "I believe *in God*" but "**I believe God**"

27 Now when the fourteenth night had come, as we were driven up and

down in the Adriatic Sea, about midnight the sailors sensed that they were drawing near some land. 28 And they took soundings and found it to be twenty fathoms; and when they had gone a little farther, they took soundings again and found it to be fifteen fathoms.

- **Fourteen Night Tribulation** on Adriatic Sea
 1. Driven up and down
 2. Finally "sense" that land is near
 3. Soundings show sea depth becoming more shallow

29 Then, fearing lest we should run aground on the rocks, they dropped **four anchors** from the stern, and prayed for day to come.

- **Drop Four anchors** and...Pray for daylight

Psalm 46:19 Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth! 11 The Lord of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our refuge. **Selah**

30 And as the sailors were seeking to escape from the ship, when they had let down the skiff into the sea, under pretense of putting out anchors from the prow...

- **Sailors:** Cowards [rats] trying to escape

31 Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, "**Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved.**" 32 Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the skiff and let it fall off.

- Stay in the ship. Fight/Flight? How about trust.
- **Centurion trusts Paul** commanding soldiers to let the skiff go

33 And as day was about to dawn, Paul implored them all to take food, saying, "Today is the fourteenth day you have waited and continued without food, and eaten nothing.

- **No food fourteen days!** Closer to dead than alive. Been there?

34 Therefore I urge you to take nourishment, for this is for your survival, since **not a hair will fall from the head of any of you.**" 35 And when he had said these things, he took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of them all; and when he had broken it he began to eat.

- **Nourishment:** Not the bread ...but the prayer

John 6:35 And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

- Paul the example of courage under pressure:

[Paul]...took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of them all; and when he had broken it he began to eat.

36 Then they were all encouraged, and also took food themselves.

- Breaking bread after 14 days Tribulation

37 And in all we were two hundred and seventy-six persons on the ship. 38 So when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship and threw out the wheat into the sea.

- **276 People:** Soldiers, Prisoners, Crew
- **Lightened the ship:** Priorities shift. C Change. Recalibration of what is important

SUMMARY: Tempest Tossed

IV. Shipwrecked

39 When it was day, they did not recognize the land; but they observed a bay with a beach, onto which they planned to run the ship if possible.

- **Plan to save the ship:** Not going to happen

40 And they let go the anchors and left them in the sea, meanwhile loosing the rudder ropes; and they hoisted the mainsail to the wind and made for shore. 41 But striking a place where two seas met, they ran the ship aground; and the prow stuck fast and remained immovable, but the stern was being broken up by the violence of the waves.

- Front stuck/back breaking apart

42 And the soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners, lest any of them should swim away and escape.

- **Roman Soldiers:** Prisoners escape they die

43 But the centurion, wanting to save Paul, kept them from their purpose, and commanded that those who could swim should jump overboard first and get to land, 44 and the rest, some on boards and some on parts of the ship. **And so it was that they all escaped safely to land.**

What to do when you are Tempest Tossed

1. **Listen** to Godly Council v10
2. **Let go** of the wheel v15
3. **Take heart** in God's promise to keep you v24
4. **Drop anchor:** Be still and know that HE is God
5. **Stay on the Ship:** Not fight or flight but trust...
 1. **Pray:** Give thanks. Guard your heart and mind
 2. **God's Word:** Our sustenance. Satan attempted to shipwreck Jesus

"It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

3. **Confess your lack of faith** [Lighten the load/get rid of the junk]

Jesus is in the boat and not worried or taken by surprise by what we're going through
He will allow us to be tempest tossed until we cry out to Him and begin to trust in Him alone