



Don't look down!

Acts 27





"Tough times never last but tough people do!"

Robert Schuller



1 When it was decided that we would sail for Italy, they proceeded to deliver Paul and some other prisoners to a centurion of the Augustan cohort named Julius.





9 When considerable time had passed and the voyage was now dangerous, since even the [fn]fast was already over, Paul began to admonish them,



10 and said to them, "Men, I perceive that the voyage will certainly be with damage and great loss, not only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our lives."





11 But the centurion was more persuaded by the pilot and the captain of the ship than by what was being said by Paul.



Delivery of Paul 1-12

- Paul's appeal destined him for Rome
- God's will
- God's weather?
- Paul's warning to the ship



"The longer I live, the more faith I have in providence, and the less faith in my interpretation of providence." Jeremiah Day



14,15 But before very long there rushed down from the land a violent wind, called Euraquilo; and when the ship was caught in it and could not face the wind, we gave way to it and let ourselves be driven along.

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED ... CHURCH ECATTERED



23 For this very night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood before me,



24 saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar; and behold, God has granted you all those who are sailing with you.'





25,26 Therefore, keep up your courage men, for I believe God that it will turn out exactly as I have been told. But we must run aground on a certain island."





Deception of Events 13-26

- Moderate wind vs 13
- 'Euraquilo' 'eastern' and 'northern' winter
- Storm says 'sink' God says 'land ho!'
- We want a dock God offers a beach





"God has many ways that He might use to achieve His ends but His wisdom determined the best way to accomplish them." Samuel Willard 1690



27 But when the fourteenth night came, as we were being driven about in the Adriatic Sea, about midnight the sailors began to surmise that they were approaching some land.





30 But as the sailors were trying to escape from the ship and had let down the ship's boat into the sea, on the pretense of intending to lay out anchors from the bow,





31,32 Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, "Unless these men remain in the ship, you yourselves cannot be saved." Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the ship's boat and let it fall away.

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED ... CHURCH ECATTERED



Deception of Sailors 27-32

- •Giving in to fear
- Giving in to plans
- Giving in to God



"There are two great certainties about things that shall come to pass one is that God knows and the other is that we do not know!"

Charles Spurgeon



33 Until the day was about to dawn, Paul was encouraging them all to take some food, saying, "Today is the fourteenth day that you have been constantly watching and going without eating, having taken nothing.





34 Therefore I encourage you to take some food, for this is for your preservation, for not a hair from the head of any of you will perish."





35,36 Having said this, he took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of all, and he broke it and began to eat. All of them were encouraged and they themselves also took food.





Decision of Ship 33-38

- Trying hard to fix
- Trying hard to find
- •Trying God as last resort?



"God can use the ordinary for the extraordinary!"



39 When day came, they could not recognize the land; but they did observe a bay with a beach, and they resolved to drive the ship onto it if they could.





40 And casting off the anchors, they left them in the sea while at the same time they were loosening the ropes of the rudders; and hoisting the foresail to the wind, they were heading for the beach.

A (TS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH ECATTERED



41 But striking a reef where two seas met, they ran the vessel aground; and the prow stuck fast and remained immovable, but the stern began to be broken up by the force of the waves.



42 The soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners, so that none of them would swim away and escape;



43 but the centurion, wanting to bring Paul safely through, kept them from their intention, and commanded that those who could swim should jump overboard first and get to land,





44 and the rest should follow, some on planks, and others on various things from the ship. And so it happened that they <u>all</u> were brought safely to land.





Deliverance of God 39-44

- Not sure where
- Not sure how
- Now is the time!
- •God's way will not violate God's Word!





"The providence of God is like a Hebrew word – it can only be read backwards." John Flavel



God will keep His word!
God wants us to share
God wants us to trust
Impulsive? Intuitive? Informed!
Where/What is God leading you now?





"Trust the past to God's mercy, the present to God's love and the future to God's providence." Augustine