

# Acts 27 – 15 November 2020

## “Persuading Others Regardless Of Position”

### Introduction

\*Paul has been arrested in Jerusalem and is being sent to Rome for trial before Caesar Nero

\*Like us, Paul has been in many different positions of influence or lack of influence

\*From prisoner, to co-worker on tents, to mouthpiece of God

\*Read Phil 4:11-13

\*He’s learned at all levels of influence to be satisfied in Christ and yet long to do more!

**Today, we’re gonna give you 4 tools to use (to advance the Kingdom of God) when you’re at different levels of influence toward others**

# **#1 – To advance the Kingdom of God while you’re a prisoner, be polite (Vs 1-8)**

Read Vs 1-8

1. Vs 3 mentions that the centurion was polite to Paul, but also Paul was polite to him.
2. When Paul was given liberty to go see friends, he didn’t abuse the privilege.
3. Paul did everything to respect this man.
4. This is a mark in Paul life, especially since being arrested, he’s polite to the rulers over him.
5. Even if we have zero influence in a situation... we always have the ability to be polite.
6. It would be easy to look past this journey, thinking of Rome to come.
  - a. But Paul is consciously engaged trying to make a difference, even as a prisoner
  - b. Don’t wait for a “better situation” to be an example of God to others, do it now IN your situation!

## **#2 – To advance the Kingdom of God while you have no influence, be inquisitive (Vs 9-13)**

Read Vs 9

1. The fast is the Day of Atonement in Sept/Oct.
2. Danger not b/c of the fast, but b/c of time of yr

Read Vs 10-13

1. Centurion agrees w/ ship captain, not the experienced sea traveler Paul
  - a. Read II Cor 11:25 – He been thru this b4
  - b. Paul is a seasoned seaman
2. Paul now in a position of no influence, but not b/c he's not capable
  - a. So he takes an inquisitive position
    - i. Speculating, asking question
    - ii. This way he's respecting those put over him
  - b. Even in this position there are ways to get involved, don't shrink away.
    - i. Don't be cocky and disrespect others
    - ii. Don't shy away, but get involved

*As it turns out, God had given Paul the foresight to see what was coming (Vs 14-20)*

Read Vs 14-20

1. Storm doesn't stop, they fear for life
2. "All hope to be saved was taken away"
  - a. They're all in the same boat
3. Interesting how common circumstances can remind us of our equality
4. God can level a situation any time He wants
  - a. Influential CMST, is reduced to no influence when he came back as a 2nd Lt.
  - b. Certain doctors were obscure until COVID came & now everyone knows their name.
  - c. Townsfolk seem so different from each other until the hurricane wipes out everything.
  - d. We followers of Jesus get to Heaven, we'll again be reminded of God the great equalizer

### **#3 – To advance the Kingdom of God while you're an equal, be exhorting / encouraging (Vs 21-32)**

Read Vs 21-26

1. Your integrity, wisdom & God's grace, in due time, will give you chances to influence for God's Kingdom
2. Thru circumstances, set up by God, Paul can now encourage / exhort them toward faith in God.
  - a. Paul demonstrates faith, exhorting them to
3. When we have moments of influence on others, take the time to challenge people to see God hand!

Read Vs 27-32

1. Centurion is now believing Paul's word.
2. There are times to just be inquisitive & there are times, like this, to be exhorting & challenging.

## **#4 – To advance the Kingdom of God while you’re the Counsellor, be caring (Vs 33-37)**

Read Vs 33-37

1. Now the one taking the lead & initiative is Paul
2. He is now living his testimony in front of them
3. He the one of influence
  - a. And he uses he influence to help them
  - b. He’s caring for them in a very practical way
4. He’s doing something very practically helpful, but always includes the Lord
  - a. Live your everyday life in a simple Godly manner.
  - b. Live your godly example “in the presence of them all”. (vs 35)
5. Notice vs 36 – It cheered them up
  - a. Some say, “You’re so heavenly minded, you’re no earthly good”.
  - b. Should be, “You can only be earthly good, to the extent that you’re heavenly minded”.

***When, by the Holy Spirit, we act this way toward others, look at the position it brings us to (Vs 38-44)***

Read Vs 38-44

1. What an adventure, but they all make it safe to land without loss of life.
2. Centurion is now making his decision based on Paul and his compassion for Paul!
3. God has brought Paul into great esteem w/ these men. But why?

## Conclusion

What tools did God give Paul that we can use to have the influence we need to direct people to God advancing His Kingdom?

- 1. When we're a prison of situation, be polite**
  - a. We always have chance to be polite
  - b. Even as a slave, we're always free to properly represent Jesus Christ
- 2. When we have no influence, be inquisitive**
  - a. Don't be overbearing, but ask questions
  - b. Plants seeds to think about
- 3. When we are seen as equal, be exhorting**
  - a. God will give moments of influence, direct others to God and the path of life
  - b. Direct others to walk in faith believing God
- 4. When we're the counsellor, be caring**
  - a. When you have the influence, show compassion and a hand up
  - b. This is your chance to build in love