

## 1. Introduction

- We are still reading through the narrative of the Apostle Paul reaching Jerusalem and encountering much suffering, as was prophesied.
- So, after arriving in Jerusalem, Paul spoke and tried to defend himself to an angry crowd (unsuccessfully), he stood trial before the Jewish High Council (Sanhedrin), he stood trial before Governor Felix, then after spending 2 years in prison he stood before Governor Festus and, lastly, King Agrippa.
- But he appealed his case to Caesar (Nero), and he is being sent to Rome.

## 2. Text: Acts 27:1-44

### Acts 27:1-12

- Summary: Paul along with other prisoners boarded a boat and began their voyage west to Rome. The winds fought against them from the beginning, but they managed to get to a town called Myra, switched boats, and then continued sailing to the south side of the island of Crete to a port town called Fair Havens.
- **Luke** is also on board (Note the pronoun “we”).
- Julius, the Roman officer (centurion), was **kind** to Paul and gave him freedom to visit friends in Sidon.
  - People notice when followers of Jesus live in a way that is honoring to the Lord.

### Acts 27:13-26

- Summary: A strong northeastern wind of typhoon strength blew the ship out to sea.
  - And the storm raged for many days, blotting out the **sun** and stars, until at last all **hope** was gone.
  - But Paul received a message from an angel of God that he would live to stand trial before Caesar, and that everyone on board would live, but the boat will shipwreck on an island.
  - Paul said, “So take courage. I **believe** God. It will be just as He said.”

### Acts 27:27-38

- Summary: Midnight on the **14th** night of the storm, they sensed they were nearing land, and they dropped anchor to keep from running ashore. Sailors tried to escape but Paul knew what they were up to and warned that everyone would die unless they stayed aboard! He again encouraged them that none of them would die, and that they should all eat to be nourished.

### Acts 27:39-44

- Summary: The plan was to run the ship aground on the island, but they didn't make it that far and got hung up on a shoal or sandbar. The boat was getting smashed to pieces. Everyone either swam safely to shore or held on to floating debris and made it to the island alive, just as God **promised**.

### 3. Application

In life, Paul learned not to trust his 5 senses, but to trust... God. Period. And even when this massive storm was blowing, he didn't even flinch, he was at peace and just kept trusting God. This is God's desire for our lives too. Don't trust what we see and feel, cling to and trust God!

Paul's trust in God grew in the hard times, not the easy times.

#### - 2 Corinthians 11:22-27

- **Romans 5:3-5:** "We can **rejoice**, too, **when we run into problems and trials**, for we know that they help us develop **endurance**. **4** And endurance develops **strength of character**, and character strengthens our **confident hope of salvation**. **5** And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love." -NLT

The problems and trials in life are not dead ends. They are not God's judgment because He's angry at us. They are not signs that God has abandoned us or is disinterested in us; they build endurance, Godly character, and strengthen our confident hope of salvation!

"He has chosen not to heal me, but to hold me. The more intense the pain, the closer His embrace." – Joni Eareckson Tada

What is the storm in your life right now? God is speaking to you in the midst of the storm and the darkness saying, "**Trust Me.**"