

Building the Church

Acts 27

Lesson 18

OBSERVATION: Read Acts 27

1. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?

2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below a group of key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way

Key Words: God, angel of God, Holy Spirit, brethren, Paul and any of his companions

THE VOYAGE TO ROME BEGINS: Read Acts 27:1-8

1. Julius... gave Paul liberty to go to his friends and receive care (verse 3). If you were Paul, what kind of care would you have desired?
 - a. What are some things we can do to help a fellow believer to make their journey a little easier?

2. Using Acts 27:4-8, describe the journey:
 - Under the shelter of Cyprus
 - Off Cnidus
 - Under the shelter of Crete³

PAUL'S WARNING IGNORED: Read Acts 27:9-12

1. What was Paul's advice?

- a. Define the word perceive.
2. What does 2 Corinthians 11:25 tell us about Paul's experience with shipwrecks?
 - a. Why is it important to listen to the "voice of experience"?
 3. Nevertheless, who persuaded the centurion?
 - a. The ship not only carried prisoners, but it carried cargo. How might that fact affect their decision to set sail?
 - b. What are some factors that can carry too much power in our decision making process?
 4. How do you tend to handle a situation when your advice is ignored?

IN THE TEMPEST: Acts 27:13-20

1. What does verse 13 reveal about the wind?
 - a. What was their conclusion, based on the fact that the south wind blew softly?
 - b. Often, we determine God's favor or an open door because of favorable circumstances. Why can that be a dangerous conclusion?

2. Once they lost control of the ship, how do you think the men on board felt?
3. What do you do when circumstances get beyond your control?
 - a. What truths do you run to?
4. Record the final phrase of verse 20.

1. According to Ephesians 2:12, when were you truly without hope?

PAUL'S WARNING HEEDDED: Read Acts 27:21-38

1. In verse 21, we find Paul standing in the midst of them. What did he tell them?
 - a. What were the conditions of their emotions (verse 20) and stomach (verse 21) that might have prompted them to be more open to Paul's advice?

- 1) What have you discovered about the openness of people to God's truths when they are uncomfortable or distressed?

What have you discovered about this personally?

2. Paul assured them that there would be loss of ship, but no loss of life (verse 22). Using verses 23-25, what did he base this assurance upon?
 - a. How did Paul describe his relationship with God?

- b. Refer to the words of Jesus to Paul in Acts 23:11. What did He tell Paul?

- c. According to Acts 27:25, what did Paul believe?

- d. Paul wrote of Abraham's faith in God's promise to give him a son. He did not consider the weakness of his own body to produce an heir. Rather, he believed God's promise to him. Using Romans 4:20, 21 describe Abraham's faith.
 - 1.) What do you admire about the faith of Paul and Abraham?

 - 2.) How do you think their faith affected their conduct?

- 3. Who seemed to be giving the orders during this time of turmoil?
 - a. Why do you think they began to listen to Paul?

- 4. Although Paul told them they would not lose their lives, what did they seek to do? (Acts 27:30)
 - a. What did Paul tell them? (verse 31)

 - b. What did the sailors do? (verse 32)

- 5. As the day was about to dawn, what did Paul implore them to do? (verses 33-34)

- a. What does this teach us about caring for both the eternal and temporal needs of others?

6. Acts 27:35 tells us that Paul took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of them all. Underline the phrase in the presence of them all. Why is it important to give thanks to God in ways that others can observe?

SHIPWRECKED ON MALTA: Read Acts 27:39-44

1. Waking up the next day, what did they observe?
 - a. Get your journal out again and record how you might have felt that day.

2. According to Acts 27:42, what was the soldiers' plan?
 - a. Who interceded for the prisoners?

 - b. One might think that if the centurion had not stepped up to protect them, Paul would have met his demise. What does this teach us about God's ability to keep His promises and use anything and anyone to do it?

3. Record the words of Proverbs 16:7

How does a godly witness touch the life of another?

PAUL'S MINISTRY ON MALTA: Read Acts 28:1-10

1. Notice that they had been brought through the storm, not "out of" the storm. What can we learn from this?

2. Look carefully at Isaiah 43:2. Consider the use of the word when rather than if. What is the amazing promise in this verse?

3. Psalm 34 is a song of deliverance. Record the awesome truths of these two passages:
 - Psalm 34:4-7
 - Psalm 34:17-19

What do these scriptures mean to you personally?

4. The natives of Malta greeted the men with unusual kindness. Yet, they were especially watching Paul, trying to determine who he was. When the snake fastened on his hand, what did they think he was?
 - a. When no harm came to him, what did they think he was? verse 6

 - b. Neither conclusion was correct. What was wrong with their thinking?

5. How does Luke 10:19 and Mark 16:18 give us a sense of why Paul was able to simply shake the snake off and suffer no harm?
 - a. What did Jesus say in Matthew 4:7 that remind us we should not deliberately place ourselves in dangerous situations?

6. The father of the leading citizen of the island (Publius) lay sick of a fever and dysentery. Paul laid hands on him and healed him (Acts 28:7, 8). How did the people of the island respond to this? (verses 9,10)

a. What do the following verses teach us about our responsibility to those who minister to us?

- Galatians 6:6
- 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

In what ways do you personally apply these verses?

PAUL'S ARRIVAL AT ROME: Read Acts 28:11-16

1. After three months they left the island of Malta. Who did they find in Puteoli?
Verses 13,14

2. What did Paul do when he saw the brethren?

a. For what reasons are you thankful for the brethren?

b. In what ways have you found courage after fellowshiping with other believers?

3. Record the first six words of Acts 28:16.

a. What do you think those words meant to Paul?

b. While in Corinth, Paul wrote to those in Rome of his desire to visit them. Read through the following verses and record your impression of Paul's longing to go to Rome.

- Romans 1:10,11,13
- Romans 15:22-24

- c. Paul wrote of “hindrances”. Yet, at the time, he was unaware of how many “hindrances” there would be. What can we learn from this?
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- 4. The centurion had great confidence and trust in Paul. What was Paul permitted to do?
 - a. What do you think it was like for the soldier(s) who guarded him?

PAUL'S MINISTRY AT ROME – THE JEWS DESIRE TO HEAR: Acts 28:17-24

- 1. After three days... Paul called the leaders of the Jews together. He explained to them why he was bound with this chain. What was that reason? Verse 20
 - a. Record the words of Jeremiah 17:13.
 - b. Now record the claim of Jesus from John 4:14.
 - c. What is our hope of glory? Colossians 1:27

Combining the truths of these verses – what or who is the hope of Israel?

- 2. Using Philippians 1:12-14, describe Paul's attitude about his chains.
- 3. The Jews seemed to connect the hope of Israel with Christianity (Acts 28:22) and desired to hear from Paul what he thought. So when they had appointed him a day, many came to him at his lodging (verse 23). What did Paul explain to them?

- a. What did he use to relate to them about Jesus' relationship to the kingdom of God?
4. According to verse 24, what was the result of Paul's persuading through the Scriptures?

PAUL'S MINISTRY AT ROME – HEARING BUT NOT UNDERSTANDING: Acts 28:25-31

1. Some were persuaded...and some disbelieved (verse 24). Paul quoted Isaiah in response to those who disbelieved. What did the LORD tell Isaiah? Acts 28:26,27
 - a. What is the difference between: hearing and understanding
 - b. What is the difference between: seeing and perceiving
 - c. What is the result of being hard of hearing and having closed eyes?
2. What was Paul's conclusion as stated in Acts 28:28?

Challenge: List the other times in Acts when Paul made this statement to the Jews.

3. The book of Acts closes telling us that Paul spent two whole years in his own rented house. What was he able to do while he was there?
 - a. What was the fruit of Paul's ministry as recorded in Philippians 4:22?
 - b. Although these years were probably not the ministry Paul had imagined, God used him mightily. What attitude is necessary if we are to be used in places contrary to our plans?

REVIEW: Read Acts 28

1. Share something that provoked you to want to be like Paul through your study of Acts 28.
2. In what way is fellowship with other believers valuable to you?
3. What did you learn from this lesson about the “detours” of life?
4. Share one thing that impacted you during your study of the books of Acts.