

Acts Ch 27:1-12

Title: In the will of God Pt1

Intro: Paul is still in chains. He's still a prisoner. It's been over 2 years and no real charges. No one can really figure out why he's being held. He's falsely accused. Many of God's servants throughout the bible have criminal records. Or are falsely accused and imprisoned. You think of Joseph, Jesus, Paul, and the disciples.

Going back to Joseph, and how he was given a dream that someday God was going to raise him up to a place of authority. But before God will raise a man it's imperative that he first lowers him. Many times God's will , will not follow our pre-planned way of fulfillment.

The bible says "A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps" (prv 16:9) And if "a man's steps are of the Lord, how then can a man understand his own way?" (prv 20:24)

Going back to Paul, remember back in Acts 19:21 (read) "I must also see Rome" . Paul had purposed in the spirit to go to Jerusalem then to see Rome. There was a desire in his heart to get to minister to those in Rome. He had a plan, but didn't know how that would come to pass and we see that in his letter to the Romans prior to this latest imprisonment and journey to Rome. See Romans 15:22-33.

- Paul's heart for the Christians in Rome.
 - Desired many years to come to them
 - Planned to enjoy their company
 - That he would come in the fullness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ.
 - He also asked them to pray for him that he would come to them "by the will of God!" (vs32)

Many times Gods will, isn't through waters of smooth sailing. Sometimes following God turns out a little differently than you thought it would. Paul purposed in his heart to go to Rome, Jesus had appeared to him to encourage him that he must bear witness in Rome, so here in Ch 27 we begin Pauls journey to Rome as he walks through or sails through God's will for his life.

1-8 I. PAULS JOURNEY TO ROME BEGINS

1-3 A. Paul's delivered into the hands of Julius

So it says finally "when it was decided" for Paul to go to Italy, he was delivered into the hands of a centurion by the name of Julius. We'll see in a few minutes when that actually was but I wanted to point out a couple of things here.

1. Notice how Lk uses the words **we & us**, in describing Paul's journey. Paul a prisoner – on his way to be tried in Rome is getting aboard a ship but is not alone.
 - a. He's got Lk & Aristarchus with him.
 - b. Lk may be coming aboard as a physician, Arist. As a paid passenger but others think they may have come aboard as Paul's slaves.
 - c. Either way, what's cool about this is Paul has some buddies, that are in it for the long haul.
 - d. They feel they are called to assist this man.
 - e. **Prov 17:17** *A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity.* NKJV He that is a friend loveth at all times: and a brother is proved in distress. Douay-Rheims
2. The other thing to be pointed out here is who Paul's been delivered to. A Centurion named Julius.
 - a. Rome didn't have very good track records when it came to their Caesars but their Centurions seem to have been picked because they were good men. Men of good reputation.
 - b. Centurion was in charge of 100 men.
 - c. Julius, one of the personal guards of Caesar Nero, elite of the elite. A seasoned soldier. You couldn't pull the wool over this man's eyes.
3. Notice how when they land in Sidon he "treats Paul kindly and gave him liberty to go to his friends and receive care"

- a. Remember Paul's a prisoner

Vs3

- b. There's favor given to Paul I believe as a direct result of how he has handled himself thus far.
- c. Felix, Festus, Agrippa, they all knew he was innocent. Paul was in their custody for 2 yrs and how he addressed the Sanhedrin, the courts, was with the utmost respect and honor.
 - i. This would play out in his favor later.
- d. He didn't disrespect or lash out, in fact what he wrote to the Romans he acted out. **See Romans 13:1-7**
- e. Most likely Festus had told Julius that Paul was not only innocent but a man of God and his character was such that you needn't worry of him escaping or causing problems.
- f. Julius treated Paul "**kindly**" and gave him liberty to go to his friends and one translation says "**refresh himself**"

4-5 B. **Sailing around Cyprus to Myra**

Vs4 1. **"we sailed under the shelter of Cyprus because the winds were contrary"** .

Vs5 2. **"we came to Myra, a city of Lycia"**

6-8 C. **Sailing slowly to Fair Havens**

7 1. **"wind not permitting us to proceed"**

2. **"sailed under the shelter of Crete"** to get to Fair Havens

9-12 II. **PAUL GIVES WARNING**

9-10 A. **Paul Perceives the voyage will bring disaster**

It says when much time had been spent, why? Because the winds were contrary and they were sailing slowly arriving with difficulty finally at Fair Havens. And now it was dangerous to sail any further because the fast was already over.

Vs9

1. **"The Fast"** This is most likely the day of Atonement AD 59 which would've been Sept or early Oct.
 - a. Dangerous time to sail is between Sept 14th until Nov 11th after that no sailing till winter was over.

Vs10

2. **"Men, I perceive that this voyage will end in disaster and much loss, not only of the cargo and ship, but also our lives"**
 - a. Paul is just a prisoner. Who's going to listen to Paul?
 - i. Who are you?
 - b. **"I perceive"** there he goes..... there goes those Christians again always telling us what they **"perceive"**
 - c. I remember being in prison as a convicted criminal and seeing guards coming in broken, angry and discerning it within them.
 - i. Who are you?
 - d. Paul was able to perceive or discern because he's a man of much prayer & fasting. The Word.
 - e. We are told to be people of discernment who discern well. And for that we should be in our word, prayer, fastings, led by the Spirit not the flesh. **Go to Heb 5:12-14 ; Prv 2:1-13**
3. Paul was not an expert sailor, though he'd been in 3 ship wrecks prior, and understood travel; he was discerning something specific and as a spirit filled believer should've been heeded.

11-12 B. **Centurion not persuaded by Paul**

11

1. **Nevertheless the centurion was more persuaded by the helmsman and the owner of the ship than by the things spoken by Paul"**
 Im sure the Centurion had every reason to believe what Paul was discerning. To heed Paul's warnings. But he was "more" persuaded by what was suitable. Read vs 12

2. **"because the harbor was not suitable to winter in"**

- a. Basically, Fair Havens just isn't the spot to winter in. It's boring. There's no clubs, restaurants, golf courses; man Phoenix..... now that's the place to go if we're going to wait out the winter.
- b. It's more suitable. Or another translation says "**convenient**"
- c. Paul was saying "Look I perceive the will of God is to stay right where we're at. For now. God's will is to get me to Rome, but if we go ahead of Him now, we will suffer.
- d. But because of convenience sake, because it wasn't suitable to wait where they were at till the next move was told, till the winter had passed – they decided to go anyways.
- e. **Prov 16:26** **There is a way that seems right to a man,**
But its end is the way of death. NKJV
- f. How do you know Wens? How do you know what the will of the Lord is? You remain in His word, in prayer and fastings. You stay connected to the vine.
- g. Go to Ps 1