



Sermon Discussion Guide

07.16.23 Message | Tyler Myers | Acts 27-28

Key Scriptures:

Since they had been without food for a long time, Paul stood up among them and said, "Men, you should have listened to me and not have set sail from Crete and incurred this injury and loss. Yet now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. For this very night there stood before me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship, and he said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you.' So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told. But we must run aground on some island."

- Acts 27:21-26

Now when it was day, they did not recognize the land, but they noticed a bay with a beach, on which they planned if possible to run the ship ashore. So they cast off the anchors and left them in the sea, at the same time loosening the ropes that tied the rudders. Then hoisting the foresail to the wind they made for the beach. But striking a reef, they ran the vessel aground. The bow stuck and remained immovable, and the stern was being broken up by the surf. The soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners, lest any should swim away and escape. But the centurion, wishing to save Paul, kept them from carrying out their plan. He ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and make for the land, and the rest on planks or on pieces of the ship. And so it was that all were brought safely to land.

- Acts 27:39-44

When they had appointed a day for him, they came to him at his lodging in greater numbers. From morning till evening he expounded to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets. And some were convinced by what he said, but others disbelieved. And disagreeing among themselves, they departed after Paul had made one statement: "The Holy Spirit was right in saying to your fathers through Isaiah the prophet: "'Go to this people, and say, "You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive." For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed; lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.' Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen." He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.

- Acts 28:23-31



Message Highlights:

- We're called to proclaim the Kingdom of God with all boldness and without hindrance.
- God ultimately demonstrates his faithfulness to his promises through his Son, Jesus.
- Through scripture, prayer, generosity and accountability, we the Church can be effective witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Conversation Starter:

What is the bravest thing you've ever done? What inspired you to act in such a way?

Discuss the Message:

1. How was Paul bold in his address to those aboard the ship in Acts 27:21-26?
 - a. Where do you notice God remaining faithful to Paul in this passage, despite his imprisonment?
 - b. What reason did Paul give when he told his fellow shipmates to 'take heart' in verse 25?
 - c. Does one of God's promises in scripture particularly resonate with you? How has this promise encouraged you in your spiritual walk?
2. In Acts 28:23-31, how did Paul present the Gospel to the people?
 - a. Read 1 Peter 3:15. Have you ever reflected on your testimony, or how you could explain the reason for your faith to others?
 - b. How can you honor Acts as an ongoing story in your everyday life?
3. Read Acts 10:2, 12:5, 17:11-12 and 20:18-21. How do you see the impact of word, prayer, generosity and accountability in these verses?
 - a. Do you sense that you're lacking in one of these spiritual practices?
 - b. What obstacles are currently preventing you from practicing these well?
 - c. What steps can you take to move to a place where you can proclaim the Kingdom of God without hindrance?

Pray:

God, we're thankful you teach us that there is no reason to fear as we share the Gospel boldly and without hindrance. May we store the lessons we have learned through studying Acts in our hearts and use them to remind us of our purpose and where our help comes from. Thank you for the community of believers that you've blessed us with and for the ways that you graciously love & care for us. You are good; may we be witnesses to that truth. Amen.