

Acts 27:1-38 Lessons from a Shipwreck, Part 1

When I was in college – I worked at the Sheraton Hotel in Newport beach.

A) A buddy of mine – Todd L – also worked there –
2 day Pass – Sheraton mission Bay.

B) One day – **decided – Catamaran** – The day we chose was really windy.
40mph

1) You really want to go out? Hey Dave – Jack Sparrow and B Fraser
George of the Jungle

C) These guys want to take a Hobie Cat out – Far out

I knew at that moment we were in for trouble.

A) Wind really fast - - easy to get the p

B) Crashed – boat – rescue.

1) **STORMS ARE A PART OF LIFE !**

Well, in our study today we are going to see the Apostle Paul in a storm

A) Strong winds / High seas – a wrecked boat and some valuable lessons.

B) **“I must also see Rome”** Those were Paul’s words during his ministry in
Ephesus (Acts 19:21)

C) Paul had wanted to preach the Gospel in Rome for a **LONG** time.

PASSION

1) Also Spain – Always looking for fresh territory

**God had a plan to get Paul to Rome – but it was different from what the
apostle imagined.**

A) An illegal arrest in Jerusalem - – Roman and Jewish Trials –

confinement in Ceasarea for 2 years

B)And as we will see today even shipwreck

C)Note: This trip might not have been undertaken as Paul anticipated - **but it had been scripted by God.**

D)**Encourage you in this:** We have our dreams and visions and desires but not all of it goes as according to a plan.

1) **God has a script.**

E)Paul would get to Rome His journey would be an *“all expenses paid”* trip, courtesy of the Roman GOVT because he would travel as the prisoner of Rome.

The Lord was *in* all of it. AND The Lord *saw him through* all of it.

A)As you navigate your way thru the course of life – AND pursue all that God has put in your heart.

B)Know this: when things don't transpire the way that you thought/
Know that God is STILL in it

1) God will see you through it

C)God's part is to see us through – **Our part is to trust Him to do that!**

At first glance – some might wonder why Luke devotes a long section of this book to a description of a voyage and shipwreck.

A)He could have given to us THE **“Reader's Digest”** account of these things. But he didn't why?

B)WELL **Luke was a first rate historian**

1)What we have here might be called the Ships Log.

C) This chapter of Acts has been considered the finest description of a sea voyage in the ancient world that is on record today.

D) English historian Sir William Ramsay made a study of Luke's writing, **and he considers this a masterpiece; and the most accurate that has ever been written.**

E) So Luke is not brief because **he is a good historian**

But Luke was not writing as a mere historian

A) **Luke was inspired by the Spirit of God-** Under inspiration of the Holy Spirit Luke was presenting to us **another portrait of Paul –**

B) **He wants us to see Paul as a courageous leader who could take command of a difficult situation in a time of great crisis.**

Joseph Parker

“Paul began as a prisoner, he ended as the captain.”

B) **AND The Lord inspired Luke to pen the record of this perilous journey to teach us that *the faith of one man or woman can make a big difference “in the storms of life” -***

1) For himself, and for those around him!

C) **Everyone on that boat was impacted by Paul's faith**

D) **But Most of all I believe the The HS inspired Luke because He wanted us to learn some tremendous lessons concerning **God's MEANS** of Encouraging Paul and Extending His MERCY to Paul.**

Primary Focus today: The means of God's encouragement in the storm.

4 LESSONS

#1 God often uses PEOPLE as *His means* of ENCOURAGING His Children in the storm.

V.1 And when it was decided that we should sail to Italy, they delivered Paul and some other prisoners to *one* named Julius, a centurion of the Augustan Regiment.

2 So, entering a ship of Adramyttium, we put to sea, meaning to sail along the coasts of Asia. Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, was with us.

Here in v. 1 We meet **three individuals who are examples of the kind of people that God uses.**

A)The first is easy to miss - V.1 - **And when it was decided that WE should sail**

B)Who remembers what is the importance of this little word we find it in the book of Acts?

1) LUKE IS THERE - author

C)Now Luke had not included himself in the narrative since Acts 21:18, **but now he has joined Paul for the voyage to Rome.**

Important observation: The HS could have continued to have Luke write in the third person.

A)But the Holy Spirit wanted us to know that Luke was there.

B)It is believed by a number of commentators that Luke was permitted on board as Paul's physician.

1) Only way that He could have been there. He chose to be there.

C)Luke was a true friend.

“No problem is ever as dark when you have a friend to face it with you.”

D)When you are in a dark trial there is nothing better than to have a friend who has faith in the Lord – who will point you to Jesus.

Next we see that God richly blessed Paul through the kindness of A stranger.

JULIUS, A CENTURION OF THE AUGUSTAN REGIMENT

Centurions were cream of the crop in the Roman army – men known for their bravery and their Proven character. -

A)All through the voyage Julius, the Roman centurion, treated Paul w/ kindness & consideration.

B)I wonder if Julius saw in Paul those same qualities of Bravery and a proven Character that he admired in his fellow centurions

C)Julius no doubt treated Paul well out of his sense of responsibility to his duties.

1)Hey if you want to be used by God – Be responsible.

E)Be the kind of person who takes his responsibilities seriously.

...ONE ARISTARCHUS (acts 19:29; 20:2, 4)

A)God used the devotion and loyalty of Aristarchus to encourage Paul.

B)Incredible guy: It is believed that there was only ONE WAY in which Aristarchus could have accompanied Paul on this journey - That was by enrolling himself as Paul's slave.

C)In other words, Aristarchus chose to act as the slave of Paul rather than be separated from him.

1) Loyalty can go no further than that.

What is the KEY to such faithfulness?

“When men cease to be faithful to their God, he who expects to find them faithful to each other will be much disappointed.”

A) True ministry is always VERTICAL –before it is horizontal –

B) Aristarchus was a free man who chose to be a slave because he was already God’s slave – he was sold out for Jesus!

C) If you are going to be a blessing to this church, to your family, to your friends, or in this world – **it starts with you being sold out to JESUS**

So Paul would be encouraged through the Means of these three men that God had in His life at this time.

One more thing before we move on v.1 *SOME OTHER PRISONERS*

A) Paul was not the only prisoner that Julius and his men were taking to Rome, for there were “*other prisoners*” with them.

B) The Greek word means “*others of a different kind*”.

C) This may suggest that, unlike Paul, these men were going to Rome not to stand trial, but for execution. **Fight the GLADIATORS**

Isn’t the Lord awesome –

A) Here are a bunch of men who are on this boat – sailing to their death –

B) These men hardened Criminals who are going to spend an eternity in Hell.

1) God totally hooks them up !

C) Places Paul on their boat – So that before they die they will have the chance to hear the gospel.

Church/ Precious saints – know this God does the same thing in our lives.

A) The World around us is floating toward an eternity of torment – separated from a God who loves them - GAVE HIS SON.

B) God places you and I who know Him – who have been touched by His grace – on the same boat.

1) In the same seas of storm – financial storms – relationship storms –

C) So that we can shine the light of Jesus to people who are lost and going to Hell

1) WE MUST NEVER LOSE THAT PERSPECTIVE – especially in the midst of the storm. It was out of

D) God orchestrated all of this – getting Paul on that particular boat so that these men who were hardened criminals could hear the gospel before they died –

Glorious

Now v.3-20 give us the account of their voyage – which for the sake of time we are not going to read

A) Note a couple of things – in v.10 Paul who had already endured 3 shipwrecks in his life - Paul perceived that they should stop – put in for the winter.

B) But because of impatience – the Sailors wanted to try and push forward to one more port

1) IMPATIENCE can get us in a world of trouble

D) These sailors motivated by impatience press ignore Paul's warning – Press forward

1) Encounter Typhoon winds v.14 Euroclydon

V20 Now when neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest beat on us, all hope that we would be saved was finally given up.

When All hope was gone – that is when God gives the 2nd means by which he encourages His children in the midst of the Storm.

21 But after long abstinence from food, then Paul stood in the midst of them and said, "Men, you should have listened to me, and not have sailed from Crete and incurred this disaster and loss. 22 And now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. 23 For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve, 24 saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you.' 25 Therefore take heart, men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me. 26 However, we must run aground on a certain island."

#2 Means of encouragement: The Encouragement of the promise of God's presence. V.23

A) Seen this before – Remember Corinth

(Acts 18:9-10 NKJV) He was afraid

Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; {10} "for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city."

(Acts 23:11 NKJV)

But the following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Be of good cheer, Paul; for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome."

Later in Paul's journey he will be held alone in prison in Rome, Paul will pen these words: *"At my first defense no one stood with me. . . But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me" (2 Timothy 4:16,17).*

A) Time and again God reminded Paul of His presence, no doubt when he needed it most. He knew when Paul could use extra assurance.

Aa) God stood by Paul's side in the storm/ In the same way, Know this: God is beside you in your storms.

B) You probably won't see an angel or hear God's audible voice, but if you pay attention you will hear the still, small voice of God.

C) You can take heart in the face of danger or uncertainty because of your awareness of God's presence!

1) When your employer says, *"I'm sorry, but I'm going to have to let you go"*;

D) When the telephone rings and someone says, *"There's been an accident"*; when the doctor tells you, **"I have some bad news"**;

It is in those times especially that we need to remember & The Lord is with You.

A) You are not alone. He is standing there by your side.

B) He will stand by your side just as He stood by Paul.

1) Disciples in the boat / Shad..... in the fire !

#3 The Reality of God's ownership v. 23 ... the God to whom I belong.

A) JESUS has a vested interest in His CHILDREN and His SERVANTS.

B) We are called His own -

(Zechariah 2:8 NLT)

Anyone who harms you harms my most precious possession.

C) Do you belong to God? If so you can take heart, because God takes

good care of His possessions.

There are many ways in Scripture by which God reminds us that we belong to Him.

A) We are called His bride. In Love with US

B) His Children – He rejoices over us. –

**C) We are His property – purchased by His blood.
Valuable to Him -**

But the one that I find the most intriguing is We are called His sheep.

A) It's interesting that the Bible compares us to sheep instead of other animals.

B) Dogs are relatively intelligent, so why didn't He liken us to them?

C) He could have said, "My dolphins hear My voice." That would have been a more flattering comparison.

D) Sheep are known for their stupidity,

1) They are known for making the same mistakes over and over again !

Prone to Panic – for no reason

Prone to wander -

Prone to blindly follow each other

Sheep are poor defenseless creatures –

Completely dependant on their Shepherd

Led them by way of the wilderness

#4 The trustworthiness of God's Character.

25 Therefore take heart, men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me.

A)God's promises speaks to us in the midst of trials.

B)It is CRUCIAL that we KNOW what precious promises belong to us in the Word.

C)It is even more CRUCIAL for us to realize that the Lord wants to SPEAK to us in very personal and specific ways in the midst of the storms of life.

Isaiah 41:10

**“Fear not, for I am with you;
Be not dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you,
Yes, I will help you,
I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”**

Isaiah 43:1-3

**3 But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you,
O Israel:**

"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine.

**2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers,
they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be
burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you. 3 For I am the Lord your God, The Holy
One of Israel, your Savior;**

D)Put ourselves in the place to hear Him!

One last thing – Throw away the escape Routes! RD

V.27-38

A)During these final two weeks they had been at sea, the ship had been driven over 500 miles off course and was now adrift in the Adriatic Sea.

B)These seasoned sailors knew things were not looking good- heading for disaster –

C)But their actions are a demonstration of two things selfishness and unbelief.

Here was an act of selfishness.

A)Instead of thinking of the well being of everyone else on board, they thought only of themselves.

B)Whether these guys knew it or not God was in the place of **saving every life on that ship**

C)And Rather than being a part of what God was doing in saving there was a small group who said we am only concerned about saving ourselves

“People that are running off to do their own thing WEAKEN the efforts of others involved in something that God is doing.” Richard Cimino

D)You expect pp in the world to be only concerned about taking **care of themselves. But it is a tragedy to see that attitude in the Church**

E)We are a Family - we end up in storms together and we need to be concerned about each other.

But This was also an act of unbelief.

A)Because in v.24 Paul had told everybody God’s promise that He would keep all those safe who sailed with him on the voyage/ **Only the boat would be lost.**

Aa)key insight Whether these men knew it, or not, the ship **was the SAFEST place to be.**

1)Every natural instinct said that it wasn’t

B)These guys were Sailors – they understood the sea

They knew that with each sounding – losing depth

1) They would soon run into Rocks –

C) Everything in them said – We are headed for trouble.

D) But God had given an assurance that He was going to take CARE of them!

When we are in the storm – our natural instincts will say – run – man the life boats – bail { ignore scripture

A) But the safest place to be is to stay in the boat

B) For these sailors that soon to be shipwrecked boat was the place where God's mercy would be found.

C) Remember when the disciples were worrying about provision – what eat / wear/ how live

Jesus said to them – Don't worry about those things the father knows your needs.

(Matthew 6:32-33 NKJV)

"For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. {33} "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Jesus was saying I want you to live in contrast to an unbelieving world – The world looks out for #1 –

A) Jesus says you seek first the kingdom and his righteousness

B) Seek God – for what He is going in this – or wants to do in this

C) Salvation is around the corner – don't get impatient – don't bail – Bad for you – miss out

Paul said, “If you jump ship, you’ll lose your life.” A) And the centurion, knowing how tempting it would be for the sailors to bail out, to jump ship, to give up,

B) ordered the soldiers to cut the lines so there would be no possibility of escape.

C) I know there are some who are saying, “I haven’t jumped ship.

1) I’ve only lowered a lifeboat over the side.

D) I’ll give it three more months, or two more weeks, or one more year.”

1) But if you keep an escape option open in your mind, I guarantee you will end up using it.

Think about divorce—and you will end up divorced.

A) Think about other men or other women you wish you had because you’re feeling tricked by the one you’re with—and inevitably, you’ll bail out.

B) Think about changing jobs, even though you gave your word—and you’ll miss out on what could have been.

C) Think about leaving home, even though that’s where God has you—and you’ll never see His reality.

1) Get rid of the lifeboats.- Cut the lines.

“It’s easy for you to say that Pastor Rob ,” “You don’t know the storm I’m in.

A) You don’t know how vehemently the wind is blowing, how violently the waves are pounding. You just don’t understand.”

B) You’re right. I don’t. But there is One who does.

In 1902 a fire broke out suburban st Louis , in the home of an elderly woman.

Asleep in the upstairs bedroom was her grandson, whom she tried to rescue before she died in the process.

A man outside heard the screams of the five-year-old boy, and found a way to climb hand-over-hand up a drainpipe, until he made it to the roof, broke through a window, and pulled the boy out to safety.

This story, which appeared in the St. Louis *Globe Herald*, generated quite a bit of interest in the orphaned boy. During the hearings that followed, a schoolteacher came forward and gave reasons why he felt he should be appointed the boy's guardian.

So did a wealthy businessman, a minister, and several other upstanding people in the community.

The little boy, however, looked down and never raised his eyes—**until a man came through the back doors of the courtroom, walked up to him, and opened his hands.** The boy looked at the charred and badly blistered hands of the stranger and jumped into his arms, saying, “This is my dad.”

And the judge pounded the gavel and said, “So be it.”

So, too, I'm asking you to look at the hands of One who loves you so much He absorbed the heat of hell to pull you out of eternal destruction.

I'm asking you to listen to this One who says, “Trust Me. Don't jump ship, or all will be lost.”

Precious people, Jesus will come in a way that will blow your mind if you don't jump ship.

I don't care what the sailors of society are saying about breaking commitments, bailing out, and giving up.

Cut the ropes. Let the lifeboat crash in the sea below.

Be encouraged by the People He has placed in your life – listen to the counsel of those who are godly

Be encouraged by the promise of His presence

Be encouraged by the reality of His ownership
Bought with a price

Be encouraged today by the trustworthiness of his Character and cut the life boats

Trust him!