



ACTS - Living in the Promises of Jesus

Acts 27

Lesson 22

As the journey to Rome began, Paul was a prisoner. By the time they arrived at the island of Malta, Paul was in many ways the captain. Paul "took over" the situation when it was obvious that nobody else knew what to do. A crisis does not make a person; a crisis shows what a person is made of, and it tends to bring true leadership to the fore. It also exposes a person's faith. Paul's response was based on his faith in what God had told him. May people say the same of us.

OBSERVATION: Read Acts 27

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. 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 key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God* and *Paul* and his companions.
Key Words: *God*, *angel of God*, *Paul* and Paul's companions
3. The contrasting words *but*, *however*, and *nevertheless* are used many times in Acts 27. Mark each time these words are used. Choose one of those times and record what is being contrasted.
4. The term of conclusion, *therefore*, was used two times in Acts 27. Mark each time the word is used. Choose one of those times; record the conclusion and what it was based upon.
5. Acts 27 describes a tumultuous storm at sea. Mark, in a distinctive way, the words or phrases that indicate the difficulties.
 - a. Make a list of those words/phrases.

1.) What are your thoughts as you contemplate the words which describe the storm and the difficulties endured by those on the boat?

6. As you read chapter 27, retrace Paul's journey using the map below.



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

1. The long anticipated voyage to Rome had begun. Review Acts 19:21 and Acts 23:11. What do you think Paul might have been thinking?
2. The word *we* in verse 1 tells us that Luke and Paul were reunited for this journey to Rome. A man named *Julius* was in charge. What can we learn about him from Acts 27: 1,3,43 and Acts 28:16?
3. *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. When a friend comes to you for *care*, how do you determine what kind of *care* to give them?
 - b. What are some things we can do to help a fellow believer to make their journey a little easier?
4. Using Acts 27:4-8, describe the journey:
under the shelter of Cyprus
off Cnidus
under the shelter of Crete

- a. If you were on that ship and journaling your adventure, what are some things you might write?

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

1. Because the journey was met with such difficulty, verse 9 tells us that *much time had been spent*. What information are we given in this verse which indicates the time of year and the conditions for sailing?

Note: the *Fast* was the Day of Atonement. Five days later the Jews celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles. Sailing was considered unsafe between the Feast of Tabernacles and the Feast of Pentecost (approximately late September to mid-May).

2. What was Paul's advice?
 - a. Define the word *perceive*.
3. 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"?
4. *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?
5. 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*?

- 1.) Often, we determine God's favor or an open door because of favorable circumstances. Why can that be a dangerous conclusion?
2. Acts 27:14 begins with the contrasting word *but*, indicating a significant change at sea. How might you record the events of verses 14-20?
3. Once they lost control of the ship, how do you think the men on board felt?
4. What do you do when circumstances get beyond your control?
 - a. What truths do you run to?
5. Record the final phrase of verse 20.
 - a. According to Ephesians 2:12, when were you truly *without hope*?
 - 1.) Describe how *hopeless* you were.

Challenge: Share some encouraging verses about the *hope* we have in God?

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?
 - a.) 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?
 - 1.) Briefly describe the life that can make that claim.
 - 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*?
 - 1.) 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?
 - 2.) Record the words of Proverbs 16:7.
 - a.) How does a godly witness touch the life of another?

REVIEW: Read Acts 27

1. During the storms, the ship's cargo lost its importance. How do disasters cause us to shift our priorities?
2. What did you learn from this lesson about:
 - helping others
 - giving or taking advice
 - facing storms
 - the importance of a godly witness
 - God's sovereignty
3. What was your favorite part in this lesson? Why?

*Then they cry out to the LORD in their trouble, and He brings them out of their distresses.
He calms the storm, so that its waves are still.
Then they are glad because they are quiet; so He guides them to their desired haven.
- Psalm 107:28-30*

Observation Worksheet

Acts 27:1-44

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. ³ And the next day we landed at Sidon. And Julius treated Paul kindly and gave him liberty to go to his friends and receive care. ⁴ When we had put to sea from there, we sailed under the shelter of Cyprus, because the winds were contrary. ⁵ And when we had sailed over the sea which is off Cilicia and Pamphylia, we came to Myra, a city of Lycia. ⁶ There the centurion found an Alexandrian ship sailing to Italy, and he put us on board. ⁷ When we had sailed slowly many days, and arrived with difficulty off Cnidus, the wind not permitting us to proceed, we sailed under the shelter of Crete off Salmone. ⁸ Passing it with difficulty, we came to a place called Fair Havens, near the city of Lasea. ⁹ Now when much time had been spent, and sailing was now dangerous because the Fast was already over, Paul advised them, ¹⁰ saying, "Men, I perceive that this voyage will end with disaster and much loss, not only of the cargo and ship, but also our lives." ¹¹ Nevertheless the centurion was more persuaded by the helmsman and the owner of the ship than by the things spoken by Paul. ¹² And because the harbor was not suitable to winter in, the majority advised to set sail from there also, if by any means they could reach Phoenix, a harbor of Crete opening toward the southwest and northwest, and winter there. ¹³ When the south wind blew softly, supposing that they had obtained their desire, putting out to sea, they sailed close by Crete. ¹⁴ But not long after, a tempestuous head wind arose, called Euroclydon. ¹⁵ So when the ship was caught, and could not head into the wind, we let her drive. ¹⁶ And running under the shelter of an island called Clauda, we secured the skiff with difficulty. ¹⁷ When they had taken it on board, they used cables to undergird the ship; and fearing lest they should run aground on the Syrtis Sands, they struck sail and so were driven. ¹⁸ And because we were exceedingly tempest-tossed, the next day they lightened the ship. ¹⁹ On the third day we threw the ship's tackle overboard with our own hands. ²⁰ 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. 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." ²⁷ Now when the fourteenth night had come, as we were driven up and down in the Adriatic Sea, about midnight the sailors sensed that they were drawing near some land. ²⁸ And they took soundings and found it to be twenty fathoms; and when they had gone a little farther, they took soundings again and found

it to be fifteen fathoms. ²⁹ Then, fearing lest we should run aground on the rocks, they dropped four anchors from the stern, and prayed for day to come. ³⁰ And as the sailors were seeking to escape from the ship, when they had let down the skiff into the sea, under pretense of putting out anchors from the prow, ³¹ Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, "Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved." ³² Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the skiff and let it fall off. ³³ And as day was about to dawn, Paul implored them all to take food, saying, "Today is the fourteenth day you have waited and continued without food, and eaten nothing. ³⁴ Therefore I urge you to take nourishment, for this is for your survival, since not a hair will fall from the head of any of you." ³⁵ And when he had said these things, he took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of them all; and when he had broken it he began to eat. ³⁶ Then they were all encouraged, and also took food themselves. ³⁷ And in all we were two hundred and seventy-six persons on the ship. ³⁸ So when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship and threw out the wheat into the sea. ³⁹ When it was day, they did not recognize the land; but they observed a bay with a beach, onto which they planned to run the ship if possible. ⁴⁰ And they let go the anchors and left them in the sea, meanwhile losing the rudder ropes; and they hoisted the mainsail to the wind and made for shore. ⁴¹ But striking a place where two seas met, they ran the ship aground; and the prow stuck fast and remained immovable, but the stern was being broken up by the violence of the waves. ⁴² And the soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners, lest any of them should swim away and escape. ⁴³ But the centurion, wanting to save Paul, kept them from their purpose, and commanded that those who could swim should jump overboard first and get to land, ⁴⁴ and the rest, some on boards and some on parts of the ship. And so it was that they all escaped safely to land.