

CP— 9/15/24

Acts 27—He's Still Sovereign in the Storm

Sermon Outline

The Narrative

1. The Ships (27:1–12)

- The Characters:
 - Julius
 - Augustan Cohort— Imperial unit, protected Caesar, spies, moved prisoners
 - Luke and Aristarchus (20:4)
 - 276 total passengers (37)
- The Timing:
 - After Day of Atonement (October) (Autumn/Winter)
 - Rough seas
- The Ships:
 - Adramyttium— small ship (60ft long)
 - Alexandrian— grain ship
 - 180 foot long, 48 foot wide, 40 foot tall
 - Carried grain inside the ship with holds that ran the ship's length/width
 - Added much weight to the ship and would cause it to rock
 - If grain got wet, it expanded and became heavier.
 - The ship's captain got paid more for deliver grain to Rome in winter.

2. The Storm (27:13–20)

- Tempestuous wind
 - Hurricane type storm
- The Ship's Boat— safety boat floating behind it
- Gear— sails
- They gave themselves over to the storm (v. 19)
- All hope is gone (20)
- 14 days (27)

3. The Solace (27:21–25)

- “God to whom I belong and who I worship has promised me”
- Take heart ... it will be exactly how God has said it would be

4. The Shipwreck (27:39–44)

The Application

1. Paul refused to allow circumstances to dictate his theology.

- The storm may not part, but it never calls into question God's absolute promises
- Paul knew 2 things: He belonged to God, & God had promised he'd get to Rome
 - The God you belong to and who you worship will get you to harbor.
 - When shipwreck looked certain, Paul buckled down in trusting God.
 - Our obedience will only be as strong as our faith in the promises of God.
 - God's sovereignty and promises allow us to navigate the storm with hope and perspective.

2. Paul remained confident in the Lord, even if his circumstances seemed unnecessary.

- God could have gotten Paul straight to Rome if He desired.
- The storm produced even greater dependence.
- The road may be longer/harder than we expected, but it will do something in us.
 - Sometimes God quiets the storm, but He always uses it and can quiet the storm in us.
 - Sometimes God speaks to the storm and makes it cease, but He always speaks through it.

3. While God is sovereign, man is still responsible for his actions. (v. 26)

- We must run aground
- When we ignore the road signs, we will face the consequences.

4. How we respond to storms does two things:

- It reveals our trust in God.
- It gives testimony to others of God's faithfulness. (27-38)
 - Remember they didn't listen to him in v.11, but now they are all ears.

**Free note: We trust in God's sovereignty, but we also use common sense. (33-36)

Small Group Discussion:

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the Scripture and sermon Sunday? What stood out to you? What questions do you have?
2. What does it mean that Paul did not allow his circumstances to dictate his theology? How are we guilty of allowing our circumstances to dictate our theology? How does this passage help us? Give testimony of how trusting in God's sovereignty and promises have helped you navigate storms in your life.
3. How do we remain confident in the Lord even when our circumstances seem unnecessary? How does it give you hope that God uses storms in our life to sanctify us? How do we navigate storms when it seems like God is absent? Give testimony of how the Lord has worked in your by allowing storms in your life.
4. Why is our response to storms so important? How does our response reveal our trust or lack of trust in God? How is it a testimony to others?
5. If you finish questions 1–4, then go back to last week's sermon notes and discuss last week's sermon.