

Power to Witness in Word and Deed —Part 2

The Book of Acts


Acts 27:27–44

Paul and his companions are aboard a cargo ship of wheat headed to Rome. Along with them are the ship's captain, the crew of sailors, a Roman centurion, soldiers, and other prisoners.

Review Acts 27:13–26. Read Acts 27:27–44.

1. What has been happening to this group of people during the last 14 days? (vv. 14–15, 18–20, 33)
2. Who became their source of courage? (v. 25)
3. What change in their situation do the sailors notice? (vv. 27–28)
4. In their desperate situation what actions do the sailors take? (vv. 29–30)

Do you think these actions show that they believe in the promise of Paul's God (vv. 22b, 24b)? Why or why not?

5. God's promise to save all those who sailed with Paul (v. 24) is a picture of a what greater salvation? (Jn. 6:39; 17:12;  * Rom. 6:3–5)

What are the conditions and the blessings of this salvation?

Conditions


Blessings

Jn. 6:40

Jn. 10:9

Jn. 10:27-29

6. What has become Paul's role on this ship other than prisoner of the Romans?

*The  symbol indicates verses for further study.

7. In the early morning, what does Paul do? (vv. 33–36)

Why do you think this is encouraging to the other passengers?

8. How does Paul describe the complete care of God? (v. 34b)

What does Paul know about God that enables him to reiterate God's promise in such a bold way? (Rom. 4:20–21)

9. In the daylight, the sailors can make out "a bay with a sandy beach" (v. 39).

a. What do they plan to do? (vv. 39–40)

b. What goes wrong with their plan? (v. 41)


10. If a Roman guard lost his prisoner, the cost was the loss of his own life.

a. How do the soldiers plan to preserve their lives in the coming chaos of a shipwreck? (v. 42)

b. Who prevents them from carrying out their plan? (v. 43a)

c. Once again, who really is in control? (Prov. 19:21)

11. Scan back over verses 13–44. List what these men have had to endure.

12. What has Paul learned from earlier hardships that enables him to weather this storm? (2 Cor. 1:8-10; 4:7-18
 Jonah 2:1-10)

What have you learned or what are you learning now that will remind you of God's faithfulness in future storms?