

## Acts Ch. 27 (DDC) – May 31, 2009

### Prayer:

--John different than stories in Acts

Story about pre-marital counseling... tie into – Bible contains the story's God wants us to hear...

- So the question I would ask you guys to be thinking about is... why does God want me to hear this story personally today?

### Recap:

- Well before we begin chapter 27... I want to take a second and recap the events leading up to Chapter 27...

(pause)

### Ch21

- If you recall back in Chapter 21 Paul finishes up his third and final major missionary Journey.
- Paul is progressing in years..
- But he feels this calling to go to Jerusalem.
- So he begins traveling from Europe to Jerusalem.

(pause)

- And all along the way he is warned by the spirit that if he goes to Jerusalem he will be bound and taken into custody

- Agabus...

(pause)

- Well when Paul reaches Jerusalem he goes into the Temple and the Jews there (who are not fond of Paul) mistakenly think Paul has brought Gentiles into the Temple.
- A huge Riot breaks out.
- And just in the nick of time (before the Jews ripped Paul apart) soldiers from the fortress Antonio rush in and arrest Paul... actually saving his life.

(pause)

### Ch.22

- Well in Chapter 22 Paul has been arrested and is being taken up the stairs past the colonnade that surrounds the temple up to the Roman fortress Antonio located on the NW corner of the temple mount.
- Paul realizing as he walks up these stairs this would be a perfect opportunity to whiteness to thousands and thousands of his country men.

- acoustics

(pause)

- So Paul asks the Tribune (named Claudius Lysias) if he can address the crowd
- After some confusion about who Paul was.... Lysias says ok.
- So Paul turns and begins to share his testimony with the Jews.
- During his testimony he mentions that God sent him to the Gentiles
- As soon as he mentions the word Gentiles... it's like an explosion went off... the Jews became enraged... an even larger riot ensues...
  - picked up sand to throw at him... (would have picked up rocks)
  - they are screaming

(pause)

- Lysias (the Tribune) no doubt surprised by what just happened takes Paul to the fortress Antonia and sets him up to be flogged.
- Well. Paul tells them he is Roman Citizen and avoids being flogged.
  - He had rights under Roman Law.

### Ch.23

- Well the next day Lysias (curious about the events that had taken place) takes Paul before the Sanhedrin
  - To find out what the charges are against Paul.
- Accusations fly... and again a riot breaks out (this time among the Jewish leaders)
- So Lysias (still not sure what Paul has done wrong) takes Paul puts him in prison
  - What do you do with a guy like this?

(pause)

- Well while Paul is in Prison in Jerusalem something important happens which is critical to our understanding of Chapter 27.
- Turn to Acts Ch. 23 Vs. 11.
- Jesus appears to Paul in prison and tells Paul...

**Act 23:11** The following night the Lord stood by him and said, "**Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem [Which is where Paul is now], so you must testify also in Rome.**"

- Don't forget that verse. (we will talk about it when we get to Ch.27)
- The remaining chapters of Acts covers the long drawn out Journey Paul makes to Rome (while in chains... in Roman custody )

(pause)

- Well after Jesus appears to Paul in prison in Jerusalem... a plot is launched (by the devout Jews there in Jerusalem) to kill Paul
- Lysias learns of the plot and decides to send Paul to Felix the Roman governor of Judea.
- So by night Paul is shipped off to Caesarea (located 62 miles north of Jerusalem)
- Caesarea was where the Roman headquarters were in Judea... thus that is where the Felix the governor was.

(pause)

## Ch.24

- Well in Chapter 24 Paul has been escorted to Caesarea and Paul is put on trial before Felix.
- Felix was an ex slave and a very corrupt governor.
- Jews hearing that Paul was on trial before the governor come to Caesarea to accuse Paul.
- They bring an orator named Tertullus and he begins falsely accusing Paul of all sorts of stuff.
- After Tertullus' accusations... Paul stands up and defends himself.
- And basically says... where are the whiteness that say I've done any thing wrong.
- There were no witnesses that Paul had done anything.
  - The real reason Paul was on trial was because Jews wanted him dead for taking the Gospel to the gentiles – which was not illegal.
  - So they made stuff up... and didn't have any whiteness

(pause)

- Well Felix sees there is no proof that Paul had done anything.
- But also sees that it's risky if he lets Paul go because it could upset the Jews
  - (which for Roman officials keeping the peace is very important if you want to keep your job).
- So Felix (who is historically noted as being indecisive) puts off the decision of what to do with Paul
- Consequently Paul is left in Prison in Caesarea.

(pause)

- Well after things calm down a bit... we find that Felix doesn't let Paul go even though he has not been convicted of anything.
- And we learned at the end of Chapter 24 that Felix was looking for a bribe.
- He was likely thinking "If I let him go... I'm at least going to get a little money

(pause)

- Well Paul sits in Prison for the next 2 years.
- Until finally Felix is removed from office.
- And Felix is succeeded by a guy named Festus. (not to be confused)
- And that brings us to Chapter 25

## Ch. 25

- 3 days after Festus takes office he goes down to Jerusalem
- While he is in Jerusalem the Jews ask Festus for a favor.
- They ask Festus to summon Paul to Jerusalem.
- What Festus didn't know was that the Jews wanted to ambush Paul on the way and kill him.
  - Apparently after 2 years they hadn't forgot about Paul.
- Well Festus instead suggested they come up to Caesarea to accuse Paul.
  - (unwittingly protecting Paul)

- Well Festus and the devout Jews travel to Caesarea where a trial is held for Paul... this time before the new governor Festus.
  - -Accusations fly
  - -Paul defends himself again

(pause)

- As the trial wraps up Festus (wanting to do a favor for the Jews) suggests Paul be put on trial in Jerusalem instead.
  - After the trial in Caesarea... Festus was probably thinking this was more of any internal Jewish matter... as apposed to a Roman matter.
- Paul knows the Jews would kill him if a trial is held in Jerusalem.
- So Paul instead invokes his right as a Roman Citizen and appeals to Caesar

(pause)

- Festus says ok Paul..."to Caesar you have appealed... to Caesar you will go"
- But... as Festus thinks this though... he realizes he has a problem on his hands.
- Festus didn't have an official charge against Paul to send with Paul to Rome
  - What does he tell Caesar that Paul has done?

(pause)

- Well while Festus is puzzling about this...King Agrippa (the great grandson of Hared the Great) arrives in Caesarea to pay his respects to Festus the new governor
- King Agrippa had an excellent knowledge of the Jews and the laws and customs
- So Festus brings up the Paul's case and notes that he doesn't see that Paul had done anything wrong
- Well after some discussion King Agrippa basically says bring Paul in and let's hear his case.

## **Ch.26**

- Last week Kylan covered Chapter 26... which is Paul in Caesarea (after 2 years of imprisonment) recounting his case to King Agrippa and Festus.
- And Paul in his defense tells again of his conversion.

(pause)

- Well Agrippa's conclusion is "This man has done nothing deserving of death or imprisonment."
- And chapter 26 concludes with Festus saying: "This man could have been set free if he had not appealed Caesar".
- So Festus decides to send Paul to Rome without any formal charges.

(pause)

- And brings us to Chapter 27.

## Chapter 27:

- Now Chapter 27 is a unique Chapter.
  - As you can see from the map the journey from Caesarea to Rome is quite a journey (about 1,500 miles).
  - One that would be made ideally by boat across the Mediterranean Sea.
  - In this chapter Luke describes in detail this storm that they encounter at sea and the eventual ship wreck.
  - Luke (as you know) is a physician and is very detailed in his descriptions.
  - Many nautical terms are used in the chapter.
  - Scholars (including secular scholars) note that this chapter gives us great insight into the nautical technology of the day.
  - Kind of an interesting chapter in that respects.
- (pause)

- We've talked before about how Paul longed to bring the Gospel to Rome.
  - So here he is... Festus has decided to send Paul from Caesarea (where he has been in prison for 2 years) to Rome.
  - Ironically his prayer is being answered.
  - He is on an all expenses paid trap to Rome
- (pause)

It says in verse 1:

**Act 27:1** And when it was decided that we should sail for Italy [**note Luke says we... he is accompanying Paul at this point...(2 Tim)**], they delivered Paul and some other prisoners to a centurion of the Augustan Cohort named Julius.

- In scriptures we're introduced to several centurions and all of them were very commendable men.
- And we will find here that Paul's escort Julius is the same.

**Act 27:2** And embarking in a ship of Adramyttium [**Adramyttium was a ship-building center of the day**], which was about to sail to the ports along the coast of Asia, we put to sea, accompanied by Aristarchus, a Macedonian from Thessalonica [**which is a guy that traveled with him back in Acts. Ch.20**].

- Paul is in chains being escorted with other prisoners by Julius the Centurion.
  - And they begin their journey by boarding a ship.
- (pause)

- And Luke notes the ship sails from port to port along the coast of Asia.
  - This means it was a coastal ship.
  - These are smaller boats that during the day time would travel along the coast from port to port.
  - They weren't large enough to travel across the Mediterranean sea.
- (pause)

- So they board this smaller ship and begin traveling up along the coast of Asia.
- You can follow along on the map hand out.

**Act 27:3** The next day we put in at Sidon. And Julius treated Paul kindly and gave him leave to go to his friends and be cared for.

- So they make Sidon – which is 70 miles north of Caesarea.
- And they take leave there...
  - probably just for a night or two.

(pause)

- While they are in Sidon... Julius lets Paul take leave to go his friends in Sidon.
- Now note... if Julius had know Paul for a while we could understand why he took the professional risk in releasing him.
- But Julius only knew Paul for a very short amount of time.
- Why would he let Paul go?

(pause)

- There must have been something about Paul.
- There must have been a connection between Paul and Julius

*If you recall the first gentile to be saved was a Centurion*

*McGee suggests that Julius had been converted in just that short amount of time  
This makes more sense if that's the case*

(pause)

- Well... Paul makes it back to the ship...

**Act 27:4** And putting out to sea from there we sailed under the lee of Cyprus, because the winds were against us.

**Act 27:5** And when we had sailed across the open sea along the coast of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we came to Myra in Lycia.

- If you look at the Map... Cyprus is an island in Mediterranean Sea off the coast of Cilicia.
- You can see they are traveling north up the coast.
- If the weather had been right... they would have turned and sailed south of the island Cyprus... straight to Myra.
- However the winds were such that they had to sail around the north side of the island staying closer to land.
  - Ancient sail boats didn't have the ability to cut into the wind like more modern sail boats do

(pause)

- So they take the long way around Cyprus.
- But eventually they arrive in Myra...

Verse 6...

**Act 27:6** There the centurion found a ship of Alexandria sailing for Italy and put us on board.

- So in Myra Julius goes and finds a ship sailing for Italy.
- It's not indicated in the text whether Julius booked passage or commandeered the ship which he would have had authority to do.

(pause)

- Now this ship was different than the coastal ship they had been sailing on.
- This was a merchant ship... specifically an Alexandrian grain ship.
  - Used to transport large quantities of grain.
- It would have been about 180' long by about 45' wide and would transport approximately 1,200 tons of wheat per trip.
- Later on we will find that there were 276 passengers on board.
- So this is a very large ship.

(pause)

**Act 27:7** We sailed slowly for a number of days and arrived with difficulty off Cnidus, and as the wind did not allow us to go farther, we sailed under the lee of Crete off Salmone.

**Act 27:8** Coasting along it with difficulty, we came to a place called Fair Havens, near which was the city of Lasea.

- If you look at your map they sailed (in the large grain ship)... southwest from Myra to the island of Crete.
- There they arrive in a port called Fair Havens.
- Now... this is where things start to get interesting.

**Act 27:9** Since much time had passed, and the voyage was now dangerous because even the Feast was already over, Paul advised them,

**Act 27:10** saying, "Sirs, I perceive that the voyage will be with injury and much loss, not only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our lives."

- Luke notes that at this point in their journey to Rome... the feast is already over.
- The feast he is referring to is the Day of Atonement so this tells us that it is late fall (probably October).
- He also notes the voyage was "now dangerous"
- The word dangerous used here was actually a nautical term of the day.
  - From September 14 to November 11 it was legal to sail in this section of the Mediterranean... however it was understood that it was essentially "sail at your own risk"
  - It was "dangerous"

○ Sailing after November 11 was illegal in this area of the Mediterranean  
(pause)

- So they arrive in Fair Havens... and Paul perceiving all this and warns them not to continue with the Journey until after winter.
- Remember Paul was experienced when it came to sailing.
- He had traveled on numerous journeys at sea.
- According to one commentary... Paul had logged over 3,500 miles at sea.
- In 2 Cor. (which was written before these events) Paul notes that he had been ship wrecked 3 other times.

(pause)

- But Paul was a Jewish Rabbi and a prisoner.
- So going on in Verse 11... Julius' response to Paul's warning makes sense... .

(pause)

**Act 27:11** But the centurion paid more attention to the pilot and to the owner of the ship than to what Paul said.

**Act 27:12** And because the harbor was not suitable to spend the winter in [**the King James Version says “and because the harbor was not commodious to harbor in**], the majority decided to put out to sea from there, on the chance that somehow they could reach Phoenix, a harbor of Crete, facing both southwest and northwest, and spend the winter there.

- Now think about this picture.
- It's late fall.
- They know it's a dangerous period of time to sail.
  - The weather is cold and unpredictable.
- Paul... this person that Julius undoubtedly trusts... warns them... we need to stop the journey

(pause)

- But... they look at this little port town... and they think... this is not the place we want to spend the winter.
- No doubt there was no entertainment... food would have been harder to come by.
- So they begin thinking lets just go to Phoenix.
  - On a good day it would be about a 4 hour sail from where they were at
- So they take a vote and the majority of them decide that they are going to risk it and sail to Phoenix.

(pause)

- So... they disregard Paul's warning and set sail.
- Now this is interesting to me... it says:

**Act 27:13** Now when the south wind blew gently, supposing that they had obtained their purpose, they weighed anchor and sailed along Crete, close to the shore.

- They disregarded this warning from Paul (a man of God).
- And at first what happens?  
(pause)

- Easy sailing.
- I've seen that before.
- Some disregards good solid council... and things appear to be great... for a season

**Act 27:14** But soon a tempestuous wind, called the northeaster, struck down from the land.

- So at first... it's easy sailing...
- But... give it a little time and a huge wind, known as the northeaster, sweeps down from the 7,000 Mt. Ida located on the Island of Crete.
- The nautical term for this wind is Euraquilo.
- About this time every year this wind would come down from the northeast and would move south west and from Mt. Ida and would wreak havoc on the Mediterranean sea.  
(pause)

- It was easy sailing at first....
- But I'm guess that this is when reality sunk in for them.
- They are doing something stupid.

*Story about Christian friend in college – wanted to join this certain fraternity*

- So... they don't follow Paul's warning.
- And it was easy sailing for a bit... but this huge wind rushes in...

**Act 27:15** And when the ship was caught [**by the wind**] and could not face the wind, we gave way to it and were driven along.

- The ship is off course and being driven by this wind.
- There is no way forward... they can't get to Phoenix...
- And there is no way back... they can't get back to Fair Haven
- They have no choice but to be driven along by the wind.  
(pause)

*Think about what that would feel like...*

- As they are being driven along the storm increase in magnitude
- What started has a huge tempestuous wind... turns into a huge sea storm.
- And they begin doing whatever they can to keep the boat from falling apart in this storm.

**Act 27:16** Running under the lee of a small island called Cauda, we managed with difficulty to secure the ship's boat.

**Act 27:17** After hoisting it up they used supports to undergird the ship. Then, fearing that they would run aground on the Syrtis, they lowered the gear, and thus they were driven along.

**Act 27:18** Since we were violently storm-tossed, they began the next day to jettison the cargo.

**Act 27:19** And on the third day they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands.

- As this storm rages on... and they drift.... they begin doing these different things to try and keep ship afloat.
- The first thing they do is bring in the ship's boat.
  - When it says "the ship's boat"...it's referring to a second boat that would be essentially dragged behind the larger boat.
  - The boat was used to upload the main ship when they got to harbors.
  - It would have been somewhere in the vicinity of 45' long.
  - So not a small boat.

(pause)

- Well eventually they get the smaller boat on board the large ship... which was probably quite a task... especially amidst a storm.
- And next they take rope supports and began to undergird the ship.

(pause)

- Now remember this is a large ship and it's getting tossed back and forth in a huge storm.
- And with the power of a large storm the waves would begin to rip the ship apart.
- In fact by this time the boat was probably showing signs of leaking.
- So they took rope and wenches and basically tied the ship together.

(pause)

- Next they begin to fear that the wind will drive the boat to the north shore of Africa where there are large shallow sandbars.
- Which if they got stuck in they would have no way of getting out.

- So it says they lowered the gear.
- This refers to a large device that was shaped like a giant windsock that was weighted.
- They would throw it in the water and it would pull behind them in the water.
- This would slow the ship's movement to the speed of the waves rather than the wind that was beating at the ship.
- But doing that meant the ship was complete adrift at sea... no control over it

(pause)

- Well... after a day or so of being violently tossed by the storm... waves at this point could have easily been as high as the sides of the ship.... they begin to do the unthinkable...
  - Chances are they had taken on a fair amount of water.... so the boat was sitting dangerously low in the water.
    - The lower you get the more water you take on.
  - So out of desperation to stay afloat and they began throwing the cargo (precious wheat) over board.
  - And next begin throwing the ship's tackle overboard.
    - This was the all the ships sailing equipment.
- (pause)

**Act 27:20** When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days [**because of the Storm**], and no small tempest lay on us [**in other words the storm kept beating on them**], all hope of our being saved was at last abandoned.

*You can just kind of picture the situation... these are veteran seamen... and they've given up all hope.*

Some times that a good position to be in.

I'm convinced one of the things that keeps people from God is false hope.

People place their hope in all sorts of things....

-house, car, job, relationship

They hope that those things will bring fulfillment.

- Now we see a bit of a shift.

**Act 27:21** 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.

**Act 27:22** Yet now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship.

**Act 27:23** For this very night there stood before me an angel of the God [**and then says**] to whom I belong and whom I worship [**speaking of God**],

**Act 27:24** and he [**the angel**] said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you.'

**Act 27:25** So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told.

**Act 27:26** But we must run aground on some island."

- So the storm is raging on.
  - And it says here the men on the ship haven't eaten any food for along time.
  - It doesn't say explicitly why they hadn't' eaten
  - But in the last verse it says these men had completely abandoned all hope.
  - So presumably they had perhaps lost the will to even eat.
- (pause)

- Well after waiting a bit Paul stands up.

- And tells them basically “You should have listened to me”.

Those are always rough words to hear.

But they are important to hear.

*Story about not listening to my Dad... messing up the billings at work...*

- I remember my Dad saying “Dan... you should have listened to me”
- And that’s about all he said.... and then he helped me fix the problem.
- Like wise Paul does the same thing.

(pause)

- Paul reminds them they should have listened to him... he doesn’t let that go.
- But then Paul begins to encourage them.
- He says:
  - Take heart.
  - There is not going to be any loss of life.
  - However, the ship will be destroyed (not good news for the ship owner).

(pause)

- And then he tells them how he knows this.
  - An Angel of the Lord appeared to him and told him... these things.

(pause)

- Now... remember Paul already knew he was going to survive.
- How do I know that?
- Remember in Chapter 23... Jesus told him he was going to testify in Rome.
- Paul knew he would make it to Rome.
- The new information the angel brought to Paul was that all the men would survive also.
  - And that the ship would be destroyed.
  - And they will run aground on some island.
    - It’s interesting to me that the angle didn’t tell them which Island.
    - God didn’t give Paul all the details.
    - That encourages me because... God doesn’t give me all the details either.
    - This requires us to walk by faith and trust God.

(pause)

- It’s interesting... Paul goes on to tell them that “I have faith in God that it will happen exactly as I have been told.
- King James says... “I believe God....
- I like that.

(pause)

- Hidden here is a good practical example of faith.

- Paul didn't say I believe in God... (Bible says even the demons believe in God).
- Rather Paul says... I believe God.
  - I trust God

(pause)

- There is a difference between having the knowledge that God exists...
- and the reality that all the things in the Bible are true....
- There is a difference between that... and trusting God.

(pause)

*Example of believing vs. having faith... wastewater treatment...*

- So Paul tells them to take heart... they are going to survive.
- It goes on in Verse 27:

**Act 27:27** When the fourteenth night had come, as we were being driven across the Adriatic Sea, about midnight the sailors suspected that they were nearing land.

- Presumably they could hear the waves breaking in the distance...
- Experienced sailors often report that there is a slight change in smell near land.

(pause)

- So they suspect Land is approaching.... so they begin to take soundings.
- When they would sound they would lower a sting with a piece of metal down to the bottom of the sea.
- Then they would measure off how deep it is to the floor of the ocean.

**Act 27:28** So they took a sounding and found twenty fathoms [**a fathom is about 6-foot ... so about 120 feet to the bottom of the sea**]. A little farther on they took a sounding again and found fifteen fathoms. [**so about 90 feet... land is obviously approaching**]

- Imagine how relieving that would have been to them.
  - “we might make it through this”...
- But...

**Act 27:29** ... fearing that we might run on the rocks, they let down four anchors from the stern and prayed for day to come.

- So they let down the anchors to make sure they don't run into shallow rocks that would rip the ship apart.
- And it says they prayed for day to come.
- Funny how circumstances like this make even the crassest seasoned sailor pray.
  - And when it says pray here... I take it to mean they plead to something out side themselves
- Well as they wait (anchors down)

**Act 27:30** And as the sailors [**the ship crew**] were seeking to escape from the ship, and had lowered the ship's boat into the sea under pretense of laying out anchors from the bow,

**Act 27:31** Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, "Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved."

- So the ship crew (the sailors) know they are in a bit of a sticky situation.
- Chances were against them that they were going to be able to get this large ship to shore.

(pause)

- So they devise a plan to take the 45-foot ship's boat and lower it into the water.
- And they tell everyone that they are going to lay out anchors from the bow.
- But Paul realizes that they are seeking to abandon ship says to the centurion and the soldiers.... "Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved."

(pause)

- Remember what the angel said... "God has granted you all those who sail with you"
- These guys leaving endangered themselves and the others.
- Their only hope was staying with Paul and with the Ship.

(pause)

- This is kind of like a little model of what Jesus has done for us...
- These men wanted to save themselves their way.
- But... their only hope was God's way.
- We can try and save ourselves... like these men.
- But... our only true hope is in the provision of Jesus.

(pause)

- Obviously the soldiers are listening to Paul by now.
- So it says:

**Act 27:32** Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the ship's boat and let it go.

- They foiled the sailor's plan to escape.

**Act 27:33** As day was about to dawn, Paul urged them all to take some food, saying, "Today is the fourteenth day that you have continued in suspense and without food, having taken nothing.

**Act 27:34** Therefore I urge you to take some food. For it will give you strength, for not a hair is to perish from the head of any of you."

- 14 days of fasting would weaken even the toughest men.
- I like how practical Paul is here.
- He's not telling them just trust in God.

- Rather he is saying practically... you will need your strength.

I like what J. Vernon McGee says regarding this verse:

“In Christian work we need just good, common, sanctified sense more than in any other area of life. How foolish people can be and at the same time excuse it by saying they are simply trusting the Lord. My friend, the Lord expects us to use some common sense.”

- Trust God and things will be ok... but you're going to need your strength.

**Act 27:35** And when he had said these things, he took bread, and giving thanks to God in the presence of all he broke it and began to eat.

- I love the leadership Paul portrays here.
- He prays and eats.
- And it says:

**Act 27:36** Then they all were encouraged and ate some food themselves.

- Seeing Paul pray and eat... something about it snaps them out of their hopeless depression... and they eat.
- And it says

**Act 27:37** (We were in all 276 persons in the ship.)

- That's a lot of people... and as we talked about this is a big ship.

**Act 27:38** And when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship, throwing out the wheat into the sea.

- At this point they have no idea where they were.
- They know the ship can't handle much more abuse... the ship is basically at this point falling apart.
- They know they are near land.
- Their only hope of survival is to get to land.

(pause)

- But... a ship this big sits very low in the water
- And so they know the only hope of getting close enough to land to be able to get ashore is to lighten the ship.
- So everything goes overboard.
- Including remainder of the wheat... which would have been their food

(pause)

**Act 27:39** Now when it was day, they did not recognize the land [**so their not sure where they are at**], but they noticed a bay with a beach, on which they planned if possible to run the ship ashore.

- So as day breaks... they study the shore of this unknown land.
- And they notice a bay (an inlet) that appears to have a beach.
- In other words spot they see wasn't a rock cliff or such.
- Rather it looked like a area they could run the ship headlong into and run the ship ashore.
- This would get the close enough to be able to swim to shore... and perhaps live.  
(pause)

So it says...

**Act 27:40** So they cast off the anchors and left them in the sea [**they dropped the Anchors... leaving them at sea... there is no going back**], at the same time loosening the ropes that tied the rudders [**this would allow them to steer the ship into the beach**]. Then hoisting the foresail to the wind they made for the beach. [**so they are going for it**]

**Act 27:41** But striking a reef [**before they got to shore**], they ran the vessel aground. The bow stuck and remained immovable, and the stern was being broken up by the surf.

- So you can kind of picture the ship cruising in towards shore... then suddenly hitting this unexpected rock reef.
- The rock punctures the hull of the ship
- And as the ship is stuck there the waves keep hitting it...
- And the ship begins to rip apart.  
(pause)

- Now... while this is happening... the soldiers and the crew are having to think quickly...
- It says in Verse 42:

**Act 27:42** The soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners, lest any should swim away and escape.

- In which case the soldiers would be responsible for any of the prisons who escape.
- So they opt... let's just kill the prisoners.

**Act 27:43a** But... the centurion [**who over heard what they plan on doing**], wishing to save Paul, kept them from carrying out their plan.

- Presumably the Centurion ordered them not to kill any of the prisoners. Instead...

**Act 27:43b** He [**the Centurion**] ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and make for the land,

- So he says.... If you can swim... jump overboard and swim to land.
- And....

**Act 27:44** ... the rest [**the people who can't swim... he tells them to make for land**] on planks or on pieces of the ship. And so it was that all were brought safely to land.

- I have no doubt when they got to shore everyone of them was dumbfounded.
  - Not one man perished in the storm...
  - not one man perished in the shipwreck.
- I bet the as they sat there looking at Paul... wondering about the God that Paul worshiped.

(pause)

- What a blessing Paul had been to them...
- Paul was doing exactly what God had asked him to do.
- As long as they stayed with Paul... they were ok.
- Think about that.

(pause)

- Bob and I were talking yesterday... and he asked me to contrast this story with the story of Jonah.
- I wasn't sure why at first.

To quickly recap the story of Jonah:

- Jonah was asked by God to go preach a message of repentance to the city of Nineveh (which was the capitol of Assyria).
- Well the Jews hated Assyrians... for various reasons.
- And he knew if he went and preached a message of repentance to the Assyrians... they might repent.
- And Jonah knew God is merciful... thus he knew the Ninevites might receive forgiveness.
- Jonah didn't want them to receive forgiveness.
- So instead of following God... he runs from God.
- Jonah boards a ship... and a huge storm comes.
- And as long as Jonah was on that boat it would continue to sink.
- And when they finally throw Jonah overboard (and distance themselves from him)... the storm subsides.

Now here's the contrast:

- Paul in this story was following God and was a blessing to the people in the ship
- As long as they stayed with him... they would live.

(pause)

- Jonah on the other hand was running from God.

- Consequently Jonah was a curse to the people in the ship  
(pause)
- So... as we wrap this up... something to consider is the fact that when we are following God we will be a blessing to those around us.
- But... as we run from God it's possible... (I don't know that it's always true)... it's possible for us to become a curse to the people around us.

### **Closing Prayer**

- Next week Kevin will be covering Ch.28 which finishes up the book of Acts
- We will see that the island they landed on is the island of Mylta.
- Ch.28 will take us through the rest of Paul's journey to Rome.
- And will spend a little time on what Paul did once he got to Rome.  
(pause)
- And then we will be moving into the book of Romans.