

--We are studying the entire book of ACTS!

TODAY:

WEEK 29 – WHEN THE SHIP GOES DOWN

Continuing in our study of Acts, Paul just presented his case to Felix 2 years ago, Festus, Herod Agrippa, and now we are coming in to the last 2 chapter of Acts, Paul is starting his journey, as a prisoner, to Rome, to make his appeal to CAESAR

That he is innocent, and has committed no crime, after making his case over and over again, and YET in embracing that path, He has been fulfilling the call of God on his life to share the gospel over and over to people he would have never been able to share it with on his own accord..

Acts 27:1-2 (NLT)

1 When the time came, we set sail for Italy. Paul and several other prisoners were placed in the custody of a Roman officer named Julius, a captain of the Imperial Regiment. 2 Aristarchus, a Macedonian from Thessalonica, was also with us. We left on a ship whose home port was Adramyttium on the northwest coast of the province of Asia; it was scheduled to make several stops at ports along the coast of the province.

NOTICE – Paul still had favor in the travel – the author, LUKE was with PAUL, if you pay attention to the “us” in the writings....He was allowed company
AND he was traveling to Rome – for his appeal to Caesar

Acts 27:3-6 (NLT)

3 The next day when we docked at Sidon, Julius was very kind to Paul and let him go ashore to visit with friends so they could provide for his needs. 4 Putting out to sea from there, we encountered strong headwinds that made it difficult to keep the ship on course, so we sailed north of Cyprus between the island and the mainland. 5 Keeping to the open sea, we passed along the coast of Cilicia and Pamphylia, landing at Myra, in the province of Lycia. 6 There the commanding officer found an Egyptian ship from Alexandria that was bound for Italy, and he put us on board.

It was very interesting circumstances...this ship was full of prisoners, all which were condemned criminals being sent to Rome to die in the arena, except for Paul
He wasn't a condemned man yet, he was waiting trial before Caesar

AND in his character and his display of love gained him a favor to be treated with an honor and privilege he DID NOT DESERVE as a prisoner like GOING to the shore to visit with friends who would provide for Paul's needs

THERE IS A PRINCIPLE to learn here about your character, how you handle yourself in ALL circumstances, in ALL things

Philippians 4:15-19 (NLT)

15 As you know, you Philippians were the only ones who gave me financial help when I first brought you the Good News and then traveled on from Macedonia. No other church did this. **16** Even when I was in Thessalonica you sent help more than once. **17** I don't say this because I want a gift from you. Rather, I want you to receive a reward for your kindness. **18** At the moment I have all I need—and more! I am generously supplied with the gifts you sent me with Epaphroditus. They are a sweet-smelling sacrifice that is acceptable and pleasing to God. **19** And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.

BECAUSE OF YOUR KINDNESS – the God who takes care of me, will take care of you, according to all He has WHICH IS NOW AVAILABLE to us through JESUS...

YOU GAIN ACCESS to riches THROUGH CHRIST's redeeming you...and the way the Father gives you these riches – is a display of GENUINE CHARACTER that does not seek the riches....

And for PAUL – the riches at this point were – because you were kind in the middle of ALL of this injustice – I'll give you the favor to see friends at port towns while you travel as a prisoner on a boat for a crime you didn't commit

AND THE RICHES WERE – favor WHILE IN CHAINS with your GUARD...

DON'T LIMIT riches to RICHES and the SMALLEST favor could be RICHES

WELL, as they sailing, they came up on an Alexandrian ship sailing to Italy – it was a grain freighter – they were ships that were about 140ft long by 36 ft wide, they had one mast with a big square sail, and was steered with 2 paddles at the back of the ship – it's purpose was to carry grain from Egypt to Italy..

WELL, the problem with this ship...it was sturdy, but couldn't sail in to the wind...

THEY ARE struggling... watch...

Acts 27:7-8 (NLT)

7 We had several days of slow sailing, and after great difficulty we finally neared Cnidus. But the wind was against us, so we sailed across to Crete and along the sheltered coast of the island, past the cape of Salmone. 8 We struggled along the coast with great difficulty and finally arrived at Fair Havens, near the town of Lasea.

SLOW SAILING, WIND AGAINST THEM, in a ship that couldn't handle it...
SO PAUL SPEAKS UP....

Acts 27:9-10 (NLT)

9 We had lost a lot of time. The weather was becoming dangerous for sea travel because it was so late in the fall, and Paul spoke to the ship's officers about it. 10 "Men," he said, "I believe there is trouble ahead if we go on—shipwreck, loss of cargo, and danger to our lives as well."

PAUL was an experienced traveler – by this time he has traveled some 3500 miles by sea – SO HE KNOWS seasons and conditions...

Some versions don't say "late in fall" some say "the FAST was over"

BASICALLY – the dangerous season for sailing was between September and November and the end of the FAST puts them around the beginning of OCTOBER

SO THEY ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS TIME TO BE SAILING ON THE SEA on a vessel that is least equipped to handle it...

Acts 27:11-12 (NLT)

11 But the officer in charge of the prisoners listened more to the ship's captain and the owner than to Paul. 12 And since Fair Havens was an exposed harbor—a poor place to spend the winter—most of the crew wanted to go on to Phoenix, farther up the coast of Crete, and spend the winter there. Phoenix was a good harbor with only a southwest and northwest exposure.

EVEN THOUGH Paul earned favor with the office in charge, the office listened to the captain – and most of the crew agreed it was a good idea to sail to Phoenix, about 40 miles away... IN A BOAT THAT COUDNT TAKE WIND...IN THE MIDDLE of the worst time of the year for storms....

LET's read what Paul said one more time in verse 10....

Acts 27: 10 (NLT)

10 "Men," he said, "I believe there is trouble ahead if we go on—shipwreck, loss of cargo, and danger to our lives as well."

A pairing of common sense and his learning to listen to God – HE GAVE THEM A PROPHETIC WORD – AND NO ONE LISTENS....

I WONDER HOW MANY TIMES someone gives us a word, and we just kind of shrug it off....or we put it in our back pocket...

1 Thessalonians 5:20-21 (NLT)

20 Do not scoff at prophecies, 21 but test everything that is said. Hold on to what is good.

HOW DO YOU TEST IT? – line it up with the standard of God's Word and the discernment of the spirit of the thing among leaders - -

What is the standard...it should strengthen, encourage, comfort

HOW does "I believe there is trouble if we go on" comforting

The COMFORT is in the pause..the encouragement is "the solution in the WAITING is for our good"

WHY DO WE SCOFF AT THEM EASILY – it reveals something...

1 Corinthians 2:13-14 (NLT)

13 When we tell you these things, we do not use words that come from human wisdom. Instead, we speak words given to us by the Spirit, using the Spirit's words to explain spiritual truths. 14 But people who aren't spiritual can't receive these truths from God's Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can't understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means.

THOSE WHO ARE NOT SEEKING GOD will not receive truths from God's spirit and it will sound foolish and they WONT understand it....

BUT THEY DIDN'T TEST what Paul said , and no one was spiritual...so they went forward...and watch what happens...

Acts 27:13-14 (NLT)

13 When a light wind began blowing from the south, the sailors thought they could make it. So they pulled up anchor and sailed close to the shore of Crete. **14** But the weather changed abruptly, and a wind of typhoon strength (called a "northeaster") burst across the island and blew us out to sea.

A light wind began to blow, so it LOOKED favorable, so they went with it, but then the wind took a VIOLENT TURNED – it says "THE WEATHER CHANGED ABRUPTLY"

You ever had one of those moments in life? Where you took what you THOUGHT looked like a safe way, and it changed IN A MOMENT for the worse? Your whole ENVIRONMENT CHANGED?

GOD KNOWS about the ABRUPT change you could NEVER foresee – so he warns through the GIFT of a word of wisdom, or a word of knowledge, or a PROPHETIC WORD that don't make sense based off your current conditions...

Acts 27:15-44 (NLT)

15 The sailors couldn't turn the ship into the wind, so they gave up and let it run before the gale. **16** We sailed along the sheltered side of a small island named Cauda, where with great difficulty we hoisted aboard the lifeboat being towed behind us. **17** Then the sailors bound ropes around the hull of the ship to strengthen it. They were afraid of being driven across to the sandbars of Syrtis off the African coast, so they lowered the sea anchor to slow the ship and were driven before the wind. **18** The next day, as gale-force winds continued to batter the ship, the crew began throwing the cargo overboard. **19** The following day they even took some of the ship's gear and threw it overboard.

THEY DID EVERYTHING THEY WERE TRAINED TO DO....but nothing worked

And we often go in to situations thinking that – I HAVE BEEN TRAINED TO HANDLE THIS – but sometimes you have to submit to understand that sometimes no matter how much you know – there are some things that GOD never wanted you to navigate through....

AND NOW – they throwing cargo and gear overboard....

Acts 27:20 (NLT)

20 The terrible storm raged for many days, blotting out the sun and the stars, until at last all hope was gone.

REMEMBER - THEY WERE ON THE OPEN SEA...so their only navigation system they relied on was the SUN and the STARS....and the STORM WAS SO BAD - they had NOTHING to navigate by – THEY WERE LOST

THEY WERE BLINDLY SAILING, OVERCOME BY STORMS and ALL of their hope was gone – they gave up... and if that weren't enough....

Acts 27:21 (NLT)

21 No one had eaten for a long time. Finally, Paul called the crew together and said, "Men, you should have listened to me in the first place and not left Crete. You would have avoided all this damage and loss."

THEY WERE HUNGRY, STARVING....and PAUL IS LIKE "I told yall"

BUT NOTICE – the entire crew gathered together to listen to a prisoner...

AND HE WAS ADDRESSING THEM as if HE was in authority...

BECAUSE EVEN THOUGH HE WANTED... HE WAS..... BECAUSE HE WAS THE ONE carrying the SPIRIT OF GOD inside of Him...

SO HE ADDRESSES THEM...

Acts 27:22 (NLT)

22 But take courage! None of you will lose your lives, even though the ship will go down.

Paul brings hope and good news... BUT IN A SEEMINGLY MIXED MESSAGE

TAKE COURAGE – your lives will be spared, but the ship is going down

WAIT A MINUTE - what about – THE STORM IS GOING AWAY

WHAT WAS LOST WILL BE RESTORED

WELL – there are STILL CONSEQUENCES to not listening to the voice of GOD – but in His goodness, he SPARES YOU....

Galatians 6:7-8 (NLT)

7 Don't be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant. 8 Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit.

Romans 6:23 (NLT)

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

HE TAKES care of the wage your ETERNAL man has to pay, but LAW is LAW and you REAP what you sow....AND NOT EVEN just REAPING what you sow..but..

Isaiah 59:1-2 (NLT)

1 Listen! The Lord's arm is not too weak to save you, nor is his ear too deaf to hear you call. 2 It's your sins that have cut you off from God. Because of your sins, he has turned away and will not listen anymore.

AND SOME OF US have been so SWALLOWED UP in a lifestyle not pleasing to GOD that we WONDER why he is allowing our SHIP to go down

NOT REALIZING – OH....HE TRIED TO TELL ME...*but MY SINS have caused MY EARS to not hear him, not His ears to not hear me*

NOW REMEMBER – Paul has already been called crazy.... LOOK at the hope he brings....

Acts 27:23-26 (NLT)

23 For last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me, 24 and he said, 'Don't be afraid, Paul, for you will surely stand trial before Caesar! What's more, God in his goodness has granted safety to everyone sailing with you.' 25 So take courage! For I believe God. It will be just as he said. 26 But we will be shipwrecked on an island."

Look at how Paul starts off - the angel of the God – WHO I BELONG and SERVE GOD has a watchful eye on you and has an active care of those that BELONG to HIM and SERVE Him- He doesn't forget you

Hebrews 6:10 (NLT)

10 For God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers, as you still do.

AND SO OFTEN we find ourselves QUESTIONING THAT – when it should be something we REMEMBER to bring us PEACE and COMFORT when the ship is going down....whether it be BECAUSE OF US, or because of the CREW MEMBERS...

CAUSE SOME of us are on sinking ships... and it is because of the CREW we with....
BUT GOD is SO GOOD that he can use YOU to bring PEACE and HOPE to the
ENTIRE CREW who DESERVES to go in to the depths of the sea

BUT GOD SAYS – I took care of the wage of death... NOW YOU will loose some
stuff, BUT ILL SPARE YOUR LIFE....

AND LOOK AT THE BOLDNESS OF WHAT PAUL SAID....

Acts 27:25 (NLT)

25 So take courage! For I believe God. It will be just as he said. **26** But we will be
shipwrecked on an island."

I BELIEVE GOD – he wasn't ashamed to come out and say it on the ship that was
taking him to a place to be tried for saying that very thing...

WE NEED THAT Boldness – not just "I believe in God" but "I BELIEVE GOD"

HE TOLD ME, HE SAID TO ME – BE BOLD in the relationship

And if you cant be bold, maybe it's a revealing of a lack of true relationship....

And the KEY word PAUL USED – I believe... cause there STILL had to be trust –
cause GOD DID NOT TELL HIM EVERYTHING

YOU ALL gonna survive, but your ship will go down, and you will end up on an
island – but I WILL NOT TELL YOU the name of the island or the how

PAUL still had to trust..

WHEN THE SHIP IS GOING DOWN – do you still believe and trust him?

Psalm 22:4-5 (NLT)

4 Our ancestors trusted in you, and you rescued them. **5** They cried out to you and
were saved. They trusted in you and were never disgraced.

GOT TO TRUST in him, in his goodness to save you and not disgrace you...

Acts 27:27-30 (NLT)

27 About midnight on the fourteenth night of the storm, as we were being driven across the Sea of Adria, the sailors sensed land was near. **28** They dropped a weighted line and found that the water was 120 feet deep. But a little later they measured again and found it was only 90 feet deep. **29** At this rate they were afraid we would soon be driven against the rocks along the shore, so they threw out four anchors from the back of the ship and prayed for daylight. **30** Then the sailors tried to abandon the ship; they lowered the lifeboat as though they were going to put out anchors from the front of the ship.

PAUL SAID ALL THAT – and 2 weeks went by

STOP EXPECTING GOD to move QUICKLY by how you define quickly to be
THAT IS PART OF – TRUST – stop boxing him in with time..

Maybe that's why we have passages like...

James 1:12 (NLT)

12 God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

PATIENTLY ENDURE testing and temptation

Like being tempted to take it in your own hand after receiving direction...

They were throwing anchors, nothing seemed to work, and they were scared they were about to HAVE A SHIPWRECK against the rocks...

So the sailors tried to abandoned ship....

They were gonna leave the passengers..when they saw a chance to save themselves

Philippians 2:4 (NLT)

4 Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.

STOP thinking culturally "look out for yourself" – no, that is destruction.. watch...

Acts 27:31-32 (NLT)

31 But Paul said to the commanding officer and the soldiers, "You will all die unless the sailors stay aboard." **32** So the soldiers cut the ropes to the lifeboat and let it drift away.

God told Paul "ill save the whole people of the ship" -so we have to partner with that promise and make decisions that align with the promise

I WONDER – how many times we MISS OUT ON BREAKTHROUGH because we don't WALK OUT the promise because we lean in our own reasoning and understanding instead of trusting in His voice...

SO they, having no trust in anything at this point but Paul's God – they cut the ropes and listened to the prisoner... PAUL...

Acts 27:33-44 (NLT)

33 Just as day was dawning, Paul urged everyone to eat. "You have been so worried that you haven't touched food for two weeks," he said. **34** "Please eat something now for your own good. For not a hair of your heads will perish." **35** Then he took some bread, gave thanks to God before them all, and broke off a piece and ate it. **36** Then everyone was encouraged and began to eat— **37** all 276 of us who were on board. **38** After eating, the crew lightened the ship further by throwing the cargo of wheat overboard.

YOU EVER WORRY SO MUCH when the ship is going down that you forget to take nourishment....

Matthew 4:4 (NLT)

4 But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

IF GOD SAID – don't worry, you will survive – live by that BREAD... AND EAT your bread – and stop letting WORRY rob you of nourishment

The WORRY is the WORD preventing nourishment

When the WORD should encourage PEACE to be nourished

THAT SCRIPTURE DON'T MEAN – do not depend on food – it means don't let other words tell you when you are worthy to be nourished – let the WORD OF GOD give you peace to CARRY ON as if THE SHIP AINT CALLING THE SHOTS

Acts 27:39-42 (NLT)

39 When morning dawned, they didn't recognize the coastline, but they saw a bay with a beach and wondered if they could get to shore by running the ship aground. **40** So they cut off the anchors and left them in the sea. Then they lowered the rudders, raised the foresail, and headed toward shore. **41** But they hit a shoal and ran the ship aground too soon. The bow of the ship stuck fast, while the stern

was repeatedly smashed by the force of the waves and began to break apart.

42 The soldiers wanted to kill the prisoners to make sure they didn't swim ashore and escape.

AFTER ALL THIS....seeing PAUL was right the whole time, why did they think "we gonna kill these prisoners" even though PAUL said "if ANY are gonna survive, we all got to survive"

ROMAN law said – if a guard allowed his prisoner to escape, the guard had to face the penalty the prisoner would have suffered.... And SOME of these prisoners they had charges of DEATH... so they were LOOKING OUT FOR THEMSELVES....

Acts 27:43-44 (NLT)

43 But the commanding officer wanted to spare Paul, so he didn't let them carry out their plan. Then he ordered all who could swim to jump overboard first and make for land. **44** The others held on to planks or debris from the broken ship. So everyone escaped safely to shore.

BUT PAUL HAD GAINED SO MUCH FAVOR in his selfless serving and words of life – that the officer was WILLING TO RISKE IT and ordered everyone to either swim to shore or hold on to planks..

And EVERYONE survived....

AND GOD'S PROMISE came through....

Acts 27:24 (NLT)

24 and he said, 'Don't be afraid, Paul, for you will surely stand trial before Caesar! What's more, God in his goodness has granted safety to everyone sailing with you.'

IN HIS GOODNESS...safety was granted for all.....

And I want to circle back around to why.. GOD WAS NOT DONE WITH PAUL

And often times....when STORMS come and OUR SHIP sinks, we think "OUR WORK IS OVER, I WONT SURVIVE THIS ONE"

BUT WE WILL SEE....the shipwreck was a SETUP to bring WITNESS to ROME of the POWER OF GOD

WHAT IF THE SHIP GOING DOWN... IS.. part of the plan..

SO LET'S let GOD WORK IT, and TRUST in his words and promises!

AMEN