

Union Bethel AME Church (dial-in and Facebook™ Live)
 Bible Study Dial-in Number: (425) 436-6260 Access Code: 141997#
 Tuesday, May 26, 2020, 6:30-7:30 PM

Acts 27:13-44

Paul was now on his journey to Rome to plead his case before Caesar and to spread the Gospel. This was not be a straight-forward journey. God’s timing for Paul caused those traveling with Paul to experience hardship. What seemed like a bad situation placed the sailors and soldiers in a position to witness God’s providence, grace, and mercy.



Acts 27:13-20

Paul was headed to Rome as a prisoner demanding rights as a citizen. Julius, the centurion responsible for Paul, found an Alexandrian ship sailing to Italy. The crew of the ship set sail because a moderate southerly wind was blowing. However, once out to sea, the wind changed and the crew started to make critical decisions in an attempt to survive.

Discuss how the “weather” contributed to making the wrong decision.

What steps did the crew take to try to reach their destination?

Acts 27:21-26

Paul reminded the crew that it was not a good idea to sail. Even so, Paul encouraged the crew that an angel spoke with him and told Paul God would watch over them. Although it probably did not seem like a good thing to travel with Paul, God blessed the crew. None perish.

Why would Paul essentially say “I told you so” and then give an encouraging word?

Acts 27:27-32

The ship drifted for 14 days. The outlook was bleak. The sailors attempted to leave. Paul warned the soldiers that everyone must stay with the ship for all to survive. The soldiers sabotaged the escape attempt.

What did the sailors think they would gain by leaving?

Why would the soldiers listen to Paul and force the crew to stay?

Acts 27:33-38

Paul again encouraged everyone and told them that all would survive the shipwreck. Paul broke bread, thanked God, and ate. All 276 ate and then they threw food overboard to continue lightening the ship.

How did Paul witness for God even in a bleak situation?

Acts 27:39-44

God's hand on Paul's life again saved the life of someone else. The soldiers planned to kill the prisoners rather than face punishment if any prisoners escaped. Julius wanted Paul to live and interceded in the soldier's plans. While the Bible does not explicitly state it, there appears to be a fondness between Julius and Paul.

Why do we think Julius cared that Paul live?
