

"The Road to Rome"

Part 11

Acts 22-28

Introduction: Last week in our study of Acts we finished chapter 26 and at the end of that chapter it was determined that after Paul had his trial before Festus and Agrippa that he would be sent to Rome for he had appealed to Caesar. As we now come to chapter 27, we will see that the entire way through this chapter to chapter 28:16 Luke will give us the details of the journey from Caesarea to Rome. This section could be entitled "Paul's Storm Stories" because as we step into chapter 27 it will not be long until we will find Paul's ship in a storm. As we study this section, we are going to gather lessons from this storm that can be applied to our lives when we are going through storms. Storms are just part of living in this fallen world, and they often show up frequently.

Job 5:7

⁷ Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward.

James 1:2-4

² My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

³ Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

⁴ But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing

Storms are just part of living in this world but not one storm is wasted.

Romans 8:28, 35-37

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

³⁶ As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

³⁷ Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

"The Storm"

Part 1

Notice Acts 27:1

Paul was placed under the watch of a man by the name of Julius, and he was a centurion of Augustus' band. This man was a Roman soldier who have been given authority over a hundred soldiers under him. This man will turn out to be a special friend to Paul. Possibly Paul won him to the Lord on the ship or possibly he was in the trial that was held before Agrippa, and he was saved there. We do not know but we do know he will treat Paul kindly.

Notice Acts 27:2

Here in verses 1 and 2 we read something very interesting and something that was not normal. Paul had two companions with him on this journey. In verse 1 Luke says that "WE" would sail to Italy and here in verse 2 we see that Aristarchus also joined Paul. He was traveling companion of Paul on his third missionary journey. The question is why would Festus allow Paul to take companions because no prisoners were permitted to do so? Possibly because he knew Paul was innocent and he wanted Paul to be taken care of. We know that ultimately God moved his heart and had Luke sent along to record the journey and Aristarchus to be a helper for Paul.

Notice Acts 27:3

Here is an unusual happening. Julius allowed Paul to leave the ship and to visit with friends at a church. We need to understand that when Julius was placed in charge of the prisoners it was his responsibility to be sure they were delivered to their destination. If he failed, then the punishment assigned to the prisoner was then placed upon him. So, to give Paul the liberty to leave the ship was really an act of generosity.

History:

Rome did not do so well when they chose their rulers, but their centurions seemed to be men that were commendable. Let us notice a few examples.

Matthew 8:5-10

⁵ And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him,

⁶ And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented.

⁷ And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him.

⁸ The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.

⁹ For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.

¹⁰ When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

Mark 15:38-39

³⁸ And the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom.

³⁹ And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God.

Acts 10:1-2

There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band,

² A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway.

Acts 23:16-18

¹⁶ And when Paul's sister's son heard of their lying in wait, he went and entered into the castle, and told Paul.

¹⁷ Then Paul called one of the centurions unto him, and said, Bring this young man unto the chief captain: for he hath a certain thing to tell him.

¹⁸ So he took him, and brought him to the chief captain, and said, Paul the prisoner called me unto him, and prayed me to bring this young man unto thee, who hath something to say unto thee.

Then there is the centurion in Acts 27. From these passages we can see that at least these centurions were men who were commendable for that which they did.

Notice Acts 27:4-9

In these verses we can see the storm beginning to build. The winds were contrary. The winds would not allow them to sail the way they desired. Sailing was now dangerous and the fast was now past. The fast took place on the Day of Atonement. This would have been early October. As the fall approached the sailing became more and more dangerous.

Notice Acts 27:10

Paul was very experienced in travel and therefore he stood up and told those in charge that it was not a good idea to continue.

Notice Acts 27:11-12

They refused to listen to the wisdom of Paul and instead they believed the "more part" which was the majority of the people on board.

Application:

This choice by the majority is going to lead them into the middle of the storm and right into a shipwreck. There are times when the majority is correct but there have been many times in the Scriptures when the majority was completely wrong.

- ✓ In 1 Samuel the majority of the people wanted a king to be like the other nations. They were wrong because they were rejecting God.
- ✓ In 1 Kings 22 the majority of prophets were completely wrong, and Micaiah was correct.
- ✓ The majority called out for Jesus to be crucified.
- ✓ The majority have chosen the broad way which leads to destruction.

Let us be careful not to be led down the wrong path by the majority. If it is required, then we must be willing to stand alone.

2 Timothy 4:16-17

¹⁶ At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge.

¹⁷ Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.

Notice Acts 27:13-20

After Paul's warning they believed they had an opening to sail but it was only the calm before the storm. They found themselves in the middle of a typhon and all hope of survival was carried away with the storm. We will get to a few lessons in a moment but first we must understand what this ship was like. This was a ship with no rudder. It had two oars that stuck out the back for a way to guide it. The sail was one square sail that worked well when sailing with the wind, but it could not track or sail into the wind. They were in the middle of the sea, and they were helpless. They began to throw things out of the ship to lighten it so that it would not take on water and sink.

Lessons from the storm:

- 1. This storm happened while they were in the center of the will of God.**

Sometimes it is God's will that we go through situations in which we are completely unable to control the situation.

Matthew 14:22-31

²² And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away.

²³ And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.

²⁴ But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary.

²⁵ And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.

²⁶ And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.

²⁷ But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.

²⁸ And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.

²⁹ *And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.*

³⁰ *But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.*

³¹ *And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?*

Peter and the disciples learned many things in the storm. Peter learned that he needed to keep his eyes on Jesus when going through the storms. Those in Acts 27 would learn of the mighty power of God and they would learn of His love for them as they would go through the typhon.

2. Storms get us out of our comfort zones.

Jeremiah 48:11

¹¹ *Moab hath been at ease from his youth, and he hath settled on his lees, and hath not been emptied from vessel to vessel, neither hath he gone into captivity: therefore his taste remained in him, and his scent is not changed.*

Conclusion:

It is good for change to come into our lives. It causes us to exercise our faith which makes us spiritually stronger. Moab had settled and had not been tried and therefore it was like wine full of dregs in the bottom. Sometimes it is good for us to be shaken up and be made to exercise our faith.