

Acts 27.1–44 “Take Heart, Men, for I have Faith in God”

26 Chs Acts: Last 5 Chs: Man in Chains before COURTS > Boring?!

Perk UP! Vivid Impression Storm esp on SMALL, HELPLESS Ship

BIGGER the WAVES > SMALLER One Feels > TERRIFYING

SUBJECT of Poetry, Literature, Films > UNFORGETTABLE Event

Famous HYMNS of the CHURCH > God our SHELTER in STORM

Rare Glimpse Ancient World > Landlubber Dr. Luke becomes Mariner

There is no such detailed record of the working of an ancient ship in the whole of classical literature.  
Thomas Walker

Written with Precise Accuracy, Words of Educated Eyewitness

No sailor would have written in a style so little like that of a sailor; no man not a sailor could have written a narrative so consistent in all its parts, unless from actual observation.

James Smith, *The Voyage & Shipwreck of St. Paul*

Began as Normal VOYAGE > Traveled Often, EXPERIENCED Sailors

More than Discovery Channel: Testimony to Gospel/ Servant of Jesus X

Luke has no intention of writing a scientific disinterested history – if in fact there is such a thing...As a whole, Luke-Acts should be read as an Apology in the form of historical narrative...Luke’s Apology is...in the broadest sense a theodicy. His purpose is to defend God’s activity in the world.  
Luke Timothy Johnson

1. The Calling of a Believer

2. The Confidence of a Believer

1. The Calling of a Believer

a. Adventure

Life is Journey: ‘Smooth sailing’ / ‘Sink or Swim’ / ‘Hold your Course’

Discipleship in Bible > People on the MOVE > PURPOSEFUL People

Luke (vol 1) > Jesus BOLDLY going to JERUSALEM

Luke/Acts (vol 2) Church Risen Jesus, Jerusalem to Ends of Earth > Rome

3 years Before Voyage in Acts 27 – Paul wrote...

...three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers. I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked... 2 Corinthians 11.25-28

More than 3,500 FREQUENT FLOATER MILES  
 PAUL already had ELEVEN Sea Voyages > THREE Missionary Journeys  
 Paul is VICTIM of VACILLATION of OTHERS  
 Jerked Around AUTHORITIES & BUREAUCRACY > Helpless PAWN

ROMAN Governors > CANNOT Decide What to DO WITH Him  
 SEA Voyage > 3 Different Ships, NUMEROUS Stops, SHIPWRECK  
 NOT Carnival Cruise Ships - Not Even PASSENGER SHIPS yet  
 Journey of LIFE > Hurry Up & Wait > RUSHING and WONDERING

We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. 2 Corinthians 4.8-10

Calling to Church Spectators on Sidelines > HEY, GET in the GAME!!

Don't Forget > Why we're Made & Redeemed, Where we're GOING!

#### b. Opportunity

Crisis NOT make PERSON > Shows what a PERSON is MADE OF

Paul began voyage as a prisoner, he ended as a captain. Joseph Parker

vs. 37,44 (we were in all 276 persons in ship)... all brot safely to land Luke, Accurate Historian

> NO Need to Embellish to Make HEROIC

MANY of PRISONERS > Under DEATH SENTENCE > DIE in ROME

Some will be Victims of GLADIATORS, CIRCUS GAMES of Suffering

276 > OWE their Life to PAUL > Most of all GOD whom Paul SERVED

Never Forget JEWISH Preacher > More SEA-WORTHY than SAILORS

Adventure of Life > Encounter People, Needs, Struggles, Hurts

It is the heavenly-minded people that are of earthly use. People who are earthly minded are of no use whatsoever when the real storms come. James Boice

Life Purpose: BLESSING of Jesus to those we MEET / Word & Deed

EVEN --- ESPECIALLY – In TIMES of ADVERSITY > MOST OPEN!

c. Endurance > Age of INSTANT and EASY SATISFACTION

v. 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.

Ship made by Hand, Timbers tied Together – Storms can Burst Hull

“supports undergird ship” – Tie Rope around entire Hull – Hold Together

Men risked Lives as swam cords under Hull of Ship during Raging Storm!

v. 18 we were violently storm-tossed, began next day to jettison cargo.

Disposed GRAIN planned to SELL – LIVES more Highly VALUED!

v. 19 on 3<sup>rd</sup> day they threw ship's tackle overboard with their own hands

“tackle” – spare gear, mainsail, main yard > Guidance System into Sea

Remember Day / Night of Power Outage last Weekend > Went CRAZY

No Microwave Popcorn – No Coffee – No Pre-Season Football!

v. 27 “when the FOURTEENTH Night had come!!”

v. 20 When neither sun nor stars appeared for **many days**, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope of our being saved was at last abandoned.

2 Weeks of Unrelenting Storm – All on Board / Crusty Sailors / Hopeless

Husband > Wife on Day-Long Sport Fishing Boat – HORRIBLY Seasick!

Staggered to Capt: Car Keys “*You can have it, if you just turn around!*”

God can allow men to descend into deepest need before delivering them. I. Howard Marshall

ABOUT THREE YEARS EARLIER Paul wrote to Xtians in ROME...

I have been longing for many years to see you...Now, however, I am on my way to Jerusalem in the service of the saints there...Pray that I may be rescued from the unbelievers in Judea and that my service in Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints there, so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and together with you be refreshed. Romans 15.23-32

Paul decided to go to Jerusalem, passing through Macedonia and Achaia. "After I have been there," he said, "*I must visit Rome also.*" Acts 19.21

d. Alone? vs. 1,2 *we would sail for Italy...We boarded a ship*

v. 2 embarking in a ship...we put to sea, accompanied by Aristarchus, a Macedonian from Thessalonica

Colleagues LUKE & ARISTARCHUS waited 2 + years of Imprisonment

Went as Support: Brothers in BONDS >> Traveled as Paul's SLAVES

Acts: Advance God's Kingdom - GROUP Activity / NO LONE Rangers

Paul REAL Man, Not SUPER Man – Needs other Men, Women, Friends

Jesus sent DISCIPLES – 2 by 2 – By 2 Witnesses Truth Confirmed

## 2. The Confidence of a Believer

### a. God is with Us and Hears Us

1477 Papal Emissary Poggio Bracciolini scouring Libraries Rare Books

Last Existing Copy “On the Nature of the Things” Gk Lucretius, 50 B.C.

Lucretius Philosophical Founder of EPICUREAN School of Thought

Read: Voltaire – David Hume – Voltaire – T. Jefferson – Albert Einstein

Why? Acts 17 – Paul in Athens “Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbler wish to say?” 17.18

Lucretius SINCERE Desire to set People FREE

People lived in Fear, Superstitions, Darkness, gods & spirits agnst them

Gods did NOT make World – Random, Swirling Atoms, COLLIDED

Random Collision of Atomic Particles – Made World and our Situation

Einstein “impressed that Lucretius set aside superstitions of religion and embraced a scientific understanding of the world”

No God, No Plan, No Providence > All Life and Creation are Random

Gods Not Create or Control World – Not Care, Sleeping on Olympus

Illustration – Swift winds across Sea, Panic on Ship, Sailors call to gods

They do NOT Care – They are Powerless – Not Even Watching You

Embrace Life & Death – Be Fearless against Random Chances you Face

v. 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”

Fear & Fate > Did not KNOW GOD > DESPERATE, WONDERING

PAUL Received SPECIAL, DIRECT REVELATION in his situation...

vs. 23,24 For this very night there stood before me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship, and he said, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul’

Revelations that Paul got I Never Get – And You will Never Get  
 He heard them as Apostle of Jesus – I am Not, You are Not, NOBODY Is  
 God gave Revelation to Paul to put it into BIBLE  
 How do you get Revelation Today? Read Bible – Hear it Read – Church!

OFTEN Times of CRISIS > Special Moments of GOD’S CLOSENESS

STORMS will COME in LIFE > REAL and TERRIBLE

HEALTH Crisis > You or a Loved One > LOSS of JOB > ACCIDENT

ALL of US > GENERAL PROMISES of SCRIPTURE

Jesus: “...surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” Matthew 28.20

**TRUE even if your NAME IS NOT SHIRLEY!**

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you... For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior Isaiah 43.2-3

b. We belong to God v. 23 angel of the God to whom I belong

By Right of Creation – God our Creator Owns Everything / Everyone

Jesus Christ has BOUGHT All who Follow Him with HIS BLOOD

The only reason I can give for why I am in the kingdom of God today is that the Father gave me to the Son that He might see the travail of His soul and be satisfied...He gave to His Son a possession, and that possession is His people. R.C. Sproul

...as bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you Isaiah 62.5

More than JUST PROPERTY of GOD > We are PASSION of GOD

Nothing can Tear BRIDE from Arms of Bridegroom: Lord Jesus Christ

No one can Kidnap Child of God from Secure Home of God the Father

NO Sheep is Ultimately LOST during WATCH of GREAT Shepherd

No Storm, No Shipwreck, No Surprises of Life > Separate us from God

1. Q. What is your only comfort in life and death?

A. That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by His Holy Spirit He also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for Him.

The Heidelberg Catechism, 1563

c. We're in Lord's Service v. 23 angel of the God...whom I worship

PAUL told Going to Testify in ROME – The following night the Lord stood near Paul and said,  
"Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome"  
Acts 23.11

We're NOT TOLD > Specific PLACE or LENGTH of our SERVICE

We are REDEEMED to SERVE > KEEP GOING until DOOR CLOSES

Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me. John 12.26

d. Confidence in God makes us a Blessing to Others

vs. 23-25 angel of God said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand b4 Caesar...God has granted you all those who sail with you.' So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told

Paul's PRESENCE & PRAYERS brought PROTECTION to them ALL

Like JOSEPH brought LIFE to EGYPT > thru TIMES of Great FAMINE

None of those sailors had any claim to redemption...God in His mercy granted them rescue for Paul's sake. R.C. Sproul

Church Father Chrysostom to Believers in Port City of Constantinople

Paul is sailing even now with us, only not bound as he was then...Let us therefore abide where he bids us – in faith, in the safe haven: let us hearken unto him... Chrysostom, 347-407

Get Ready for ADVENTURE, OPPORTUNITY >> STORMS, Surprises

NO Promises for Peace, Job Security, Health, Prosperity, Success, Fame

v. 25 So take heart, men, for I have faith in God > Trust in His Faith

Priest – Stands btwn God & People – Intercede for Them – Lifts them UP!

// People who lowered Paralytic thru Roof to be Healed by Jesus

So he could be Cured and Converted by Jesus the Healer and Savior

God help us to LIFT UP – Ohana, Friends, Enemies > Know Lord Jesus

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## Congregational Prayer - Psalm 111

Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,  
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

**Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.**

Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

**He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and merciful.**

He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever.

**He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations.**

**Praise the Lord for His Works, In our World, our Families, our church...**

The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy;

**they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. **Holy and awesome is his name!**

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding.

**His praise endures forever!**