

1-30-22 Sermon Notes

Acts 27.

Paul is on his way to Rome, he did all he could do in Jerusalem, and in Caesarea for the gospel of Jesus Christ. He presented the gospel truth to the religious Jews, Roman soldiers, Felix, Drusilla, Festus, King Agrippa II, Bernice and only God knows who else was there. He spent over two years as a prisoner, innocent of all charges, never offered a bribe, the Bible doesn't record any complaining or whining. (Wow!)

The Bible also doesn't record any those I listed ever accepting the gospel of Jesus Christ. If anything, we see disbelief, blaspheme (slandering of God), denial, and contempt. The only encouraging thing we take from it is, procrastination, if that's encouraging. Felix saying, ***"Go away for now; when I have a convenient time, I will call for you."*** (Acts 24:25) Felix stating that Paul was mad (crazy) (Acts 26:24). King Agrippa saying, ***"You almost persuade me to become a Christian."*** (Acts 26:28)

Acts 27:1-8, Paul, Luke, and Aristarchus are put on a boat headed to Rome. They sailed to Sidon (67 miles) and after some time they sailed north of Cyprus to Myra (400 miles). Paul and his cohorts transferred ships and continued sailing west along the shore to Cnidus. Because of difficult winds and weather, they sailed ***"under the shelter of Crete"*** and stopped at Fair Haven (250 miles)

The total trip from Caesarea to Rome was believed to be 2,344 miles and taken at least 30 days.

Acts 27:9-12, Read verses 9-12. The last 700-800 miles of sea traveling had been very difficult, and it was getting late in the season. The "Fast" Day of Atonement had past, scholars speculate the date was late October. The Roman writer Vegetius stated that navigation on the open sea fell off after 14 September, came to a complete halt after 11 November, and did not resume until 10 March.

Acts 27:13-20, Read verses 13-20. The ship and 276 people headed into a typhoon storm.

First point of the message.

I. Storms (troubles) in life happen when you LEAST expect them.

Many if not most have heard me say, you are either entering a storm, in a storm or exiting a storm. Some truths about storms,

- Storms (troubles) do not (necessarily) mean that God is showing His disapproval of something we have said or done. When we have troubles, it doesn't (necessarily) mean that God is mad at us. (Troubles happen!)
- To be in a stormy (troubled) moment is not sinful. Trouble comes to all of us; no one is off the hook when it comes to life's problems. Every one of us will suffer heart aches, betrayal, times of uncertainty, health issues; storms are part of everyday life. (Everyone has them)
- You can be right with God, living the most spirit led life and you will still experience troubles, heart aches, storms. (Paul was a prisoner of the gospel, his freedoms had been stripped, God told him he would go to Rome. Yet in **Acts 27**, we see him in a storm. Storms show no favoritism.

- Not all storms and troubles that we will encounter will be because of anything we did. Some storms and troubles we encounter could be because of someone else or to get the attention of someone else.
- Hear me on this, we shouldn't get so caught up in what's happening to us in the storm as much as to what is going on inside us and what could be coming out of us. (How will we respond to troubles)

Some things we need to be careful of when dealing with storms:

1. Stay Calm, Don't Panic.

- Beware of growing impatient during the storm. You could make it worse.
- Whenever we get impatient, we run ahead and disobey the will of God.
- **Verse 9 says, "now when much time had been spent, and sailing was now dangerous"** they were deciding to leave.
- The centurion, the helmsman and the owner of the ship decided. We can't grow impatient even if we are uncomfortable, we could make decisions that will make it worse.

Psalm 32:9, Don't be like a stupid horse or mule that will not come to you unless you put a bit in its mouth and pull it with reins." ERV

2. Receive Counsel.

- **"Paul advised them, saying, "Men, I perceive that this voyage will end with disaster and much loss, not only of the cargo and ship, but also our lives."**
- What did the centurion, helmsmen and owner do? **Read verse 11.**
- The centurion had faith—but his faith was in the wrong people! God's wisdom is far above the wisdom of men. The person who knows the Word of God knows more than the "experts"

Psalm 119:97-104 (slide)

James 1:5, If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

- Man, we really don't like to get counsel, do we? Most of the time we would rather be live out

Proverbs 26:11, As a dog returns to his own vomit, So a fool repeats his folly.

3. Beware of the easy way out.

- The centurion, the helmsman and the owner of the ship decided. We can't grow impatient even if we are uncomfortable, we could make decisions that will make it worse.
- **"Because the harbor was not suitable to winter in... (v.12)** They could not see staying three to five months in an uncomfortable place.
- Don't we like quick fixes? Isn't there a pill for that or something? Sometimes when in life's storms we need to hunker down and ride it out. Especially if they are of our own making. I get myself in trouble by making unwise decisions and then I expect God to clean it all up.

4. Just because everyone else does it doesn't mean you do.

- ***"The majority advised to set sail from there also..." (v.12)***
- He took a vote (**v. 12**), and Paul was outvoted! In the Bible, the majority is usually wrong; yet today the common excuse is "Everybody's doing it!"
- Let me tell you a truth, NOT everyone is doing it!
- Well, this relationship isn't worth saving so let's throw it out that start over. We are over our heads in bills, so let's not pay off the debt we charged up. Let them pay for it, they have more than enough. My sin is not my fault...umm, yeah it is!

5. Appearances can be deceiving.

- **Read the end of verse 12-13.**
- ***"The south wind blew softly..."***
- The very wind they needed came along and seemed to prove how wrong Paul was. We must beware of "great opportunities" and "ideal circumstances" that seem to contradict the Word of God.
- We often look everywhere for our answers, rather than the Bible. Or we prefer other answers than from God.
- Things look greener on the other side, so I think I am going to XYZ. We all love to go on vacation to Florida don't we, especially this time of year. The weather is perfect, the sun is out and the beaches! Can I say from experience, it is a great place to vacation, but not a great place to live? The weather is unbearable from April through October, the fruits pick the nuts there, everything you leave in your yard gets stolen. Traffic is atrocious! We lived maybe 5 miles from our church, and it took every bit of 25 mins to get there, going the backstreets. Wait at a stop light is 5 mins long and last 10 seconds. There are red ants everywhere, so there is fire torture. Sand spurs, you think stepping on a Lego will cripple you, a sand spur will stop you immediately and drop you like a rock, and most of the time they are in groups! You must teach your children nursery rhymes to know whether a snake is poisonous or not. Roaches everywhere, little ones, big ones and some don't run, they dare you to come at them. The sun is so hot 9 months out of the year it will ruin your cars, roofs of your house and pretty much anything you leave outside.
- As I stated earlier, sometimes "ideal circumstances" aren't what they seem. I have said, if I were to win the lottery it would probably be bad.
- Each of the above factors can work in the lives of Christians today. We must be careful to obey God's Word by faith, even when circumstances seem to prove us wrong