

Daily Bible Readings

Our Read-Ahead for: 13 November 2022

Paul Sails for Rome

Monday: Called to Be an Apostle (**Romans 1:1–7**)

Tuesday: Encouraged by Each Other's Faith (**Romans 1:8–12**)

Wednesday: Eager to Proclaim the Gospel (**Romans 1:13–17**)

Thursday: Paul's Journey to Rome Begins (**Acts 27:3–12**)

Friday: A Fierce Storm Dashes Hope (**Acts 27:13–20**)

Saturday: Keep Up Your Courage (**Acts 27:21–32**)

Sunday: Brought Safely to Land (**Acts 27:1–2, 33–44**)

Paul Sails for Rome

Bible Background: Acts 27

Printed Text: Acts 27:1–2, 33–44

Devotional Reading: Romans 1:13–17

Keep in Mind: *“And the rest, some on boards, and some on broken pieces of the ship. And so it came to pass, that they escaped all safe to land.”*
(Acts 27:44, KJV)

Aim for Change

By the end of the lesson, we will: **KNOW** how Paul’s faith in God enabled him to remain calm during a storm; **APPRECIATE** how our relationship with God helps us cope in a crisis; and **WITNESS** to others about relying on God’s strength when facing crises.

In Focus

How we weather life’s storms reflects whether we truly have confidence in God’s faithfulness. Today’s lesson shows how Paul’s calm response to a storm helped bring others to safety.

Focal Verses

Acts 27:1,2-44

1 And when it was determined that we should sail to Italy, they delivered Paul and certain other prisoners unto one named Julius, a centurion of Augustus’ band.

2 And entering into a ship from Adramyttium, we launched, meaning to sail along the coasts of Asia, one Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, being with us..

33 And as the day was coming on, Paul besought them all to take meat, saying, “This day is the fourteenth day that ye have tarried and continued fasting, having taken nothing.

34 Therefore I pray you to take some meat, for this is for your health; for there shall not a hair fall from the head of any of you.”

35 And when he had thus spoken, he took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of them all; and when he had broken it, he began to eat.

36 Then they were all of good cheer, and they also took some meat.

37 And we were in all on the ship, two hundred threescore and sixteen souls.

38 And when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship and cast out the wheat into the sea.

39 And when it was day, they knew not the land, but they discovered a certain creek with a shore, into which they were minded, if it were possible, to thrust in the ship.

40 And when they had taken up the anchors, they committed themselves unto the sea, and loosed the rudder ropes, and hoisted up the mainsail into the wind, and made toward shore.

41 And falling into a place where two currents met, they ran the ship aground; and the forepart stuck fast and remained immovable, but the stern began to break up with the violence of the waves.

42 And the soldier's counsel was to kill the prisoners, lest any of them should swim out and escape.

43 But the centurion, desiring to save Paul, kept them from their purpose, and commanded that those who could swim should cast themselves first into the sea and get to land,

44 and the rest, some on boards and some on broken pieces of the ship. And so it came to pass that they all escaped safely to land.

The Lesson

I. The People, Places and Times

The Book of Acts. The second of two books written by Luke, Acts highlights “the acts of the apostles.” It shares accounts of how the early church fulfilled its mission to “be witnesses of Jesus Christ . . . in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8, KJV). The Book of Acts offers a historical view of the growth of the church and the unity, or sometimes disunity, of its members. Luke shares the encouraging message, the Gospel is available to all people, regardless of race, class, or ethnicity.

Background: Arrested in Jerusalem, after preaching the Gospel. Paul requested a trial before Caesar. Due to stormy weather the trip was dangerous. Paul told Julius, the centurion guarding the prisoners, “Our voyage is going to be disastrous and bring great loss to ship and cargo, and to our own lives also”. Julius ignored Paul’s warning; the ship continued until it encountered a hurricane. Passengers and crew lost hope and dreaded

drowning, Paul encouraged them by sharing a vision he had; an angel told him they would be shipwrecked, but no one on board would die., Paul's confidence in God's faithfulness enabled him to act calmly during the ordeal. Paul believed the word of the Lord, delivered by the angel, and trusted God to fulfill His promise.

Ships. In biblical times, ships were functional, not recreational, and used by merchants and traders in business dealings from spring through fall. Winter made sailing more hazardous. Soldiers, meanwhile, used ships to protect the seas from pirates and during war.

II. In Depth

1. Calm before the Storm (Acts 27:1–2)
2. Calm in the Storm (Acts 27: 33–38)
3. Shipwrecked, But Saved (Acts 27: 39–44)

III. Take Aways

IV. Closing Prayer