

Acts 27

- **SPREADING HOPE...**

- Because of Hope...

- The trial of Paul before King Agrippa was DIFFERENT from the other THREE...
 - This was NOT a trial to decide if Paul was innocent of guilty...
 - This was an INQUIRY – so King Agrippa could help write a letter to send to Caesar...
 - Paul began to speak - not to defend himself - but to preach the Gospel...
 - He was being JUDGED [κρίνω] because of his HOPE [ἐλπίς] in the RESSURECTION...
 - This was NOT a new HOPE – it was the same HOPE the Bible had established from the beginning!

- Finding Hope...

- Indeed [μὲν] - Paul could relate to the Jews – he had also PERSECUTED the church...
 - He put believers in Jesus to DEATH [cast his stone]
 - But when Jesus met Paul on the road to Damascus...
 - He told SAUL - He had appeared to him to HAND pick [προχειρίζω] him...
 - He would be a WITNESS to what he had seen [Jesus] – and would be SHOWN to him!

- Spreading Hope...

- At the mention of the RESURRECTION of the Christ...
 - Festus cried out [imperfect] with a LOUD [μέγας] voice – Paul you are CRAZY [μανία]
 - Paul responded he was NOT crazy – but [ἀλλά] spoke the TRUTH with a clean mind...
 - Looking at Agrippa – Paul asked the question would Agrippa put his FAITH in Jesus...
 - Agrippa said [imperfect] – you persuade me a LITTLE [ὀλίγος] to become a Christian...
 - At which point Agrippa and Festus agreed Paul had done NO wrong...
 - If [indicative] he had NOT appealed to Caesar – he could have been [imperfect] set free...
 - What the King and Governor could not see – was the PLAN of God...
 - They were NOT sending Paul to ROME – God was – **Acts 23:11**

- **1ST – THE JOURNEY... vs. 1-12**

- 1st – Traveling Companions... vs. 1-3

- The Centurion... vs 1

- When it was decided we should sail to Italy - they delivered Paul and some other prisoners.
 - To one named Julius - a centurion of the Augustan Regiment!
 - As it was JUDGED [κρίνω] that Paul should be sent to ITALY [Rome]
 - They gave him and some other prisoners into the care of Centurion names Julius...
 - A trusted officer who was part of the IMPERIAL [σεβαστός] regiment...
 - He was there to make sure Paul was kept in chains – the warden of the prison...
 - But Paul was not chained to Julius – Julius was chained to Paul [a captive audience]!
 - We often make the mistake of overlooking the opportunities right in from of us...
 - If we are in school - we might think of it as a prison – but it is an opportunity...
 - Or perhaps it is our work – and we feel like that is a prison...

- EIGHT hours a day we are surrounded by other people who cannot go anywhere!
- God has us there so we can use it as an opportunity to share the Love of Jesus...
- We think about Jesus in church - but it is the everyday people that need to hear!
- Luke... vs. 2
 - So entering a ship of Adramyttium we put to sea - meaning to sail along the coasts of Asia!
 - Julius put Paul into a ship from Adramyttium [northwest Turkey]
 - The plan was to sail to Rome following the coasts of Asia [Turkey]
 - WE put to sea - the author of the book includes himself in the journey...
 - Luke who had been traveling with Paul since the SECOND missionary journey - **Acts 16:11**
 - Refused to leave Paul – even if it meant going with him to Rome!
 - **Hebrews 13:3** – “Remember the prisoners as if chained with them, those who are mistreated, since you yourselves are in the body also.”
 - My Father went into prisons for more than THIRTY years...
 - It was NOT a glamorous way to serve – or easy – hardened prisoners...
 - But as a result I do NOT think I could count the number of people he led to Jesus!
 - We do not tend to think much about those who are in prison [getting what they deserve]
 - But the truth is we are all sinners – and we all need the Gospel message...
 - So as Christians we are NOT to forget those who are in prison...
 - We are to go and stand by them – tell them about the freedom that comes in Jesus!
- Aristarchus... vs. 2
 - Aristarchus - a Macedonian of Thessalonica - was with us. The next day we landed at Sidon!
 - ARISTARCHUS [Ἀρίσταρχος] - his name means the BEST ruler...
 - Was a convert from Thessalonica who traveled with Paul!
 - He was FIRST arrested in the RIOT of Ephesus - **Acts 19:29**
 - It would appear he got arrested a SECOND time and was being sent with Paul to Rome...
 - It happened often enough Paul called him his fellows PRISONER!
 - **Colossians 4:10** - “Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you.”
- New friends... vs. 3
 - And Julius treated Paul kindly and gave him liberty to go to his friends and receive care!
 - Julius was KIND - [φίλος] to love [ἄνθρωπος] people...
 - And gave Paul freedom to visit his FRIENDS [φίλος] in Sidon [modern Lebanon]
 - Yet this is the ONLY mention of Paul visiting Sidon in the Bible!
 - We were flying back to the Philippines [15 hour flight]
 - The man sitting in front of me saw me leaned his seat back [crunch time]
 - But when he saw I was doing a Bible study - he put his seat back upright...
 - I came to find out he was a PASTOR - on his way to Sri Lanka!
 - Because of our common faith in Jesus - there was a CONNECTION...
 - The power of the Gospel takes STRANGERS - and makes them FAMILY!
- 2nd – Wisdom of men... vs. 4-11
 - Strong winds... vs. 4-8
 - When we had put to sea from there we sailed under the shelter of Cyprus.
 - Because the winds were contrary - and when we had sailed over the sea.
 - Which is off Cilicia and Pamphylia - we came to Myra - a city of Lycia.
 - There the centurion found an Alexandrian ship sailing to Italy and he put us on board.
 - When we had sailed slowly many days and arrived with difficulty off Cnidus.

- The wind not permitting us to proceed - we sailed under the shelter of Crete off Salmone.
- Passing it with difficulty - we came to a place called Fair Havens - near the city of Lasea!
- As they sailed from Sidon out into the Mediterranean - but had to stay close to CYPRUS...
- Because the WINDS were against them [hard to sail in open ocean]
- And landed in the city of Myra [southern Turkey] - where they changed boats...
- They were put on an ALEXANDRIAN [deep water grain ship] heading for Rome...
- It took a LONG time to get to Cnidus [western Turkey] - because the WIND was against them...
- Those same WINDS would NOT let take the safer route through CORINTH...
- Instead they were forced to sail south and follow the southern coast of Crete...
- And with much DIFFICULTY they were able to land the ship at FAIR [καλός] haven [port]!

▪ Godly Counsel... vs. 9-10

- Now when much time had been spent and sailing was now dangerous.
- Because the Fast was already over - 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!
- The WIND had caused them to LOSE a lot of time...
- The FAST was already over [Day of atonement] - **Leviticus 16:29**
- Meaning it was already the month of October...
- Navigation on the Mediterranean Sea is unsafe from October through March!
- It was DANGEROUS to sail in the open Mediterranean...
- Paul WARNED [imperfect] them - if they CONTINUED to press forward...
- He SAW [θεωρέω] it would end in the loss of their CARGO - SHIP - and their LIVES!

▪ Persuaded... vs. 11-12

- Nevertheless the centurion was more persuaded by the helmsman and the owner of the ship.
- Then by the things spoken by Paul. And because the harbor was not suitable to winter in.
- The majority advised to set sail from there also if by any means they could reach Phoenix.
- A harbor of Crete opening toward the southwest and northwest - and winter there!
- But the CAPTAIN [κυβερνήτης] and OWNER of the ship...
- Persuaded [imperfect] the Julius more than the words of Paul...
- And since Fair Haven was NOT a good port to stay over the WINTER in...
- They decided to sail for Phoenix [western Crete] which had a better port...
- Julius made the mistake of refusing Godly counsel - instead followed the WISDOM of MEN!
- God will often make things HARD [winds] to try to keep us from a DANGEROUS path...
- He will send men GODLY counsel to WARN us that we should NOT move forward...
- But in the end we have a CHOICE to make - who do we listen to...
- We can heed the warning - listen to the counsel - and avoid catastrophe...
- Or we can stubbornly plow ahead - and face the ramifications of our choice!

▪ 2ND - THE STORM... vs. 13-20

○ 1st - Fair weather... vs. 13

- When the south wind blew softly supposing that they had obtained their desire.
- Putting out to sea they sailed close by Crete!
- They waited for a day when the SOUTH wind blew [keep them close to Crete]

- Assuming [δοκέω] this gave them the POWER [κρατέω] to do what they planned - they set SAIL!
- When we choose to follow the wisdom of the WORLD - it seems to go well at first...
- But inevitably once we set SAIL - and there is no turning back...
- It all comes tumbling down on us – life falls apart!
- 2nd - Euroclydon... vs. 14-19
 - Out of control... vs. 14-15
 - But not long after a tempestuous head wind arose called Euroclydon.
 - So when the ship was caught and could not head into the wind - we let her drive!
 - Not long after - they were hit by TYPHOON [τυφωνικός]
 - It was called a EURO [east wind] CLYDON [crashing wave]
 - The ship was SEIZED [ἄρπάζω] by the storm - it came on them so fast they could NOT react...
 - They could NOT steer against [ἀντοφθαλμέω] the WIND - so they let the ship be taken by it...
 - Meaning they lost all control – they were at the mercy of the storm!
 - There are TWO option as to whom is at the helm of our life – us or Jesus...
 - If we chooses to take the controls – we end up OUT of control – tossed about!
 - Tied down... vs. 16-17
 - Running under the shelter of an island called Clauda - we secured the skiff with difficulty.
 - When they had taken it on board - they used cables to undergird the ship.
 - Fearing lest they should run aground on the Syrtis Sands - they struck sail and so were driven!
 - As they passed by the Island of Clauda - the storm calmed slightly...
 - And they were barely able to SECURE the LIFE boat [σκάφη]
 - They then took ROPES [βοήθεια] to wrap around the ship to hold it together...
 - Fearing they would get WRECKED on the sandbars near Syrtis [north of Libya]!
 - When life gets out of control we often try to PULL ourselves together...
 - The problem is that in spite of our best efforts – we are still in the STORM...
 - We need to look to someone else for the answer – someone who can calm the storm!
 - **Hebrews 4:16** - “Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help [βοήθεια] in time of need.”
 - Overboard... vs. 18-19
 - And because we were exceedingly tempest-tossed - the next day they lightened the ship.
 - On the third day we threw the ships tackle overboard with our own hands!
 - Because they were being exceedingly tossed by the WAVES...
 - The next thing they did was THROW out [ἐκβολή] the cargo of the ship...
 - They grain bound for Rome that seemed so valuable – could now sink them...
 - And the THIRD thing they did was CAST off their equipment [lighten the load]!
 - When we are in the midst of the STORM - all the things that we though were so important...
 - They are NO longer seem so valuable – when we find they cannot save us!
- 3rd - No Hope... vs. 20
 - Now when neither sun nor stars appeared for many days - and no small tempest beat on us.
 - All hope that we would be saved was finally given up!
 - When they did NOT see the sun [day] or stars [night] for MANY days...
 - They lost ALL [πᾶς] hope [ἐλπίς] that they would be saved...

- The unrelenting storm had driven them far out into the open sea...
- They had NO idea of where they were – and began to accept they would all die!
- Maybe we can replate - we are in a place where we feel completely LOST...
- NO idea of where we have come from or where we are going...
- We have given up all HOPE - there seems to be NO answer...
- How did we get there – we chose NOT to listen to the Word of God...
- But it is never too late – God is always ready to reach out and save!
- **3RD - THE DARKEST HOUR... vs. 21-44**
 - 1st – The Rebuke... vs. 21-26
 - Hubris [arrogance]... vs. 21
 - But after long abstinence from food then Paul stood in the midst of them and said:
 - Men you should have listened to me - and not sailed from Crete incurred this disaster and loss!
 - After many days of NOT having anything to eat [it was all tossed into the sea]
 - Paul gave the men on the boat - I told you so...
 - They should NEVER have left Crete - and won this DISASTER [ὑβρις]
 - Grace... vs. 22-24
 - Now I urge you to take heart - for there will be no loss of life among you - but only of the ship.
 - For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and I serve saying:
 - Do not be afraid Paul. You must be brought before Caesar.
 - And indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you!
 - Yet Paul had GOOD [εὖ] news - NO one would DIE [just the ship]
 - An ANGEL of God whom Paul served stood by him this night saying - do NOT fear [imperative]
 - He MUST stand before Caesar [God was NOT done with him]
 - And since Paul would survive - God had also GIVEN [χάρις] all the men on the boat HOPE!
 - Take heart... vs. 25-26
 - Therefore take heart men - for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me.
 - However we must run aground on a certain island!
 - Therefore - they MUST [imperative] be of GOOD cheer [εὐθυμοῖς]
 - Because Paul had FAITH [πίστις] God would do exactly what was said...
 - Though they be SHIPWRECKED [cast] onto a certain Island [Malta]
 - Paul was in the same boat as everyone else – yet he had HOPE...
 - He had confidence in spite of the circumstances – because he had FAITH in the WORD of God!
 - **Hebrews 13:5** – “For He Himself has said - I will never leave you nor forsake you.”
 - Times are the most difficult in life – just before God does the most amazing work...
 - Too often we give up – wear out – just before God does something incredible...
 - It is good to remember - it is always the darkest – just before the dawn!
 - 2nd - The challenge... vs. 27-32
 - Two weeks... vs. 27-29
 - When the fourteenth night had come as we were driven up and down in the Adriatic Sea.
 - About midnight the sailors sensed that they were drawing near some land.
 - They took soundings and found it to be twenty fathoms.
 - When they had gone a little farther they took soundings again - found it to be fifteen fathoms.

- Then fearing lest we should run aground on the rocks.
 - They dropped four anchors from the stern - and prayed for day to come!
 - After FOURTEEN nights [no light] they were somewhere on the Adriatic Sea...
 - About MIDNIGHT - they sailors thought [ὕπνοθέω] they were nearing LAND...
 - They dropped a weight [βολίζω - 1.5 meters] to measure the depth of the water...
 - One of FORTY unique words [hapax legomenon] only used in this chapter [most in the NT]
 - They quickly went from 35 meters [20 fathoms] - to 27 meters [15 fathoms]
 - So they dropped FOUR anchors - and PRAYED [imperfect] for the morning to come...
 - These were likely NOT men of prayer – however they were prayer warriors this night!
 - Incredibly these anchors may have been rediscovered in the 1960s!
 - Explorer Bob Cornuke argue the ship went down on the southern coast near St. Thomas Bay...
 - They point to four Roman-era anchor found at the exact 27 meters depth [15 fathoms]!
 - Funny how it takes dire circumstances to turn us to Jesus...
 - Often in hardships we ask WHY God – but notice that we are now talking to God...
 - If things were going well - we would likely NOT be having that conversation!
- Abide... vs. 30-32
- As the sailors were seeking to escape from the ship.
 - When they let down the skiff into the sea under pretense of putting out anchors from the prow.
 - Paul said to the centurion and soldiers: Unless these men stay in the ship you cannot be saved.
 - Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the skiff and let it fall off!
 - Some of the SAILORS tried to abandon ship on the life boat [σκάφη]
 - But Paul warned if they did not ABIDE [μένω] in the ship - they could NOT be saved...
 - So the SOLDIERS cut the ropes to the life boat [σκάφη] and let it fall into the Sea!
 - When things get HARD - it can be easy to want to ESCAPE...
 - But running away is NOT the answer - we need to ABIDE - **John 15:4**
- 3rd - Communion... vs. 33-38
- Salvation... vs. 33-35
- As day was about to dawn Paul implored them all to take food saying:
 - Today is the fourteenth day you have waited and continued without food - and eaten nothing.
 - Therefore I urge you to take nourishment for this is for your survival.
 - Since not a hair will fall from the head of any of you!
 - As the SUN was about to rise - Paul ENCOURAGED [παρακαλέω] them to eat...
 - It had been FOURTEEN days since they had ANY food...
 - He encouraged [παρακαλέω] them to eat for their SALVATION [σωτηρία]
 - Because NOT one hair of their head would FALL out [no harm would come]!
- Eucharist... vs. 36-38
- When he said these things he took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of them all.
 - And when he had broken it he began to eat.
 - Then they were all encouraged and also took food themselves.
 - And in all we were two hundred and seventy-six persons on the ship.
 - So when they had eaten enough they lightened the ship and threw out the wheat into the sea!
 - Paul gave THANKS to God [εὐχαριστέω]
 - This is the same word used by Jesus at the LAST supper - **Luke 22:19**
 - Paul had communion with the men early that morning on the ship...
 - He pointed them to the ONE who could SAVE them – Jesus...
 - And the men were all of GOOD cheer [εὐθυμοῖς]

- We are given the count - in ALL they were 276 SOULS [ψυχή]
 - When they had eaten and were full - they cast the remaining BREAD into the SEA!
 - If we did NOT eat rice for FOURTEEN days we would be physically starving...
 - Yet we often go longer without the bread of life - **John 6:48**
 - Just as we need to eat food everyday – so also we need Jesus every day!
- 4th - Saved... vs. 39-44
- Shipwrecked... vs. 39-41
 - When it was day they did not recognize the land - but they observed a bay with a beach.
 - Onto which they planned to run the ship if possible.
 - They let go the anchors and left them in the sea - meanwhile loosing the rudder ropes.
 - They hoisted the mainsail to the wind and made for shore. Striking a place where two seas met.
 - They ran the ship aground - the prow stuck fast and remained immovable.
 - But the stern was being broken up by the violence of the waves!
 - Once it was LIGHT - they did NOT know [ἐπιγινώσκω] where they were...
 - But the HOPED [optative] to let the ship run aground on the beach...
 - They left the ANCHORS in the sea - and put up the MAIN sail...
 - But the front of the SHIP got stuck on REEF - while the back was broken up by the WAVES!
 - Escaped... vs. 42-44
 - The soldiers plan was to kill the prisoners - lest any of them should swim away and escape.
 - But the centurion - wanting to save Paul - kept them from their purpose.
 - And commanded that those who could swim should jump overboard first and get to land.
 - The rest on boards and some on parts of the ship. So it was they all escaped safely to land!
 - The soldiers wanted to kill all the prisoners – to prevent their escape...
 - But Julius wanting to spare Paul – ordered EVERYONE that could to swim for shore...
 - Others rode in on the BOARDS of the broken ship [surfing]
 - And ALL [πάντες] 276 souls were SAVED [passive] - and made it to LAND!