

From Storm to Solid Ground

Acts 27:27-28:10

Icebreaker: *What gives you hope?*

Last week we Paul and his companions sailed for Rome and encountered a dangerous storm. We ended with Paul giving a word from God that they must run aground on an island.

Acts 27:27-32

They were in the storm for fourteen days when they finally neared landfall. *Why was land a mixed blessing in their situation?*

- They needed land to be safe and have something solid to stand on in the storm.
- The boat could also be dashed against the rocks and everyone drown.

When we find ourselves in trouble in life, how do we weigh out which solutions can help us and which contain danger?

- Paul shows us the answer—he was listening to God.
- We need to pray for discernment that God could make clear to us the hidden dangers and which options are the best.

Acts 27:33-44

How intense the storm must have been for them to not have eaten anything for two weeks! Recognizing the need for the men to be well fed for the work ahead, Paul prayed a prayer of thanks and the prisoners and guards shared a meal together.

What is it about storms that can pull enemies together?

- History has shown us how the Gospel can pull people together—persecutors and the persecuted, criminals and the justice system, you name it and Christ can bridge the gap.

Acts 28:1-10

Right when his feet get on solid ground, safe from the storm, what happens to Paul?

- He gets bit by a snake and the locals think he will die.

From bad to worse! From 14 days in the storm to bit by a snake. *Paul would have known this couldn't be the end because what had God told him earlier?*

- God had told him he would go all the way to Rome
- God must have told him everyone on the ship would be spared and not a hair on their heads would be hurt (27:34)

Remember what Jesus said to his disciples in Mark 16:17-18...*How is a part of this fulfilled in what happens in this story in Acts?*

- Paul is unaffected by a poisonous snake
- Paul heals Publius' father and many other from the island.

How did God use these miracles to ready these 276 people for their next voyage?

- The people on the island were favorable to them and gave them the supplies they needed for their voyage.

Remember, they had lost all their supplies in the sea including their grain. God provided for these 276 people by providing these miracles.

How has God brought you a foundation through the storm?

This life offers many “foundations” but they all have their risks and dangers. None of them last. The world says if you have enough money then you have a solid foundation or if you are popular enough or if you are promoted high enough then you have a solid foundation. What was solid is not the ground we standing on but the God we have faith in. You can land on solid ground, think you are safe and die from a snake bite. Only God can really make this life solid.

Application:

How can trusting God increase your courage even when you don't know all the answers and outcomes?

What “impossible” things in your life still need to be given completely to God?

Paul knew nothing to happen to him because God promised he would make it to Rome. *How does the promise of making it to heaven give us courage today?*

Prayer:

Pray that God would help us find a solid foundation but not in earthly things—a foundation found in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.