

Bible e-Study on the book of Acts (27)

The profit was tossed overboard, but the Prophet was kept on board!

“25 So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. 26 Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island.”

Acts 27:25-26

NUGGET – This [chapter of Acts](#) would make a good movie! It has action, adventure and... the word and work of God clearly on display. We read in this chapter, in verse 24, that God wants Paul to stand before Caesar in Rome. *That* is His purpose. God is in control. God will see that Paul gets there, no matter the difficulties in the journey. And there are lots of those!

When setting out on this voyage to Rome, Paul at first tells them they shouldn't go at this time, that there'll be loss of life along with cargo and ship. But go they do, suffer loss they do also. At one point in this trip they go for 14 days – think about that 14 days being driven before a storm! Verse 20 tells us that 'we finally gave up all hope of being saved.'

And it's at that point, at the point of all hope being gone, that is when God speaks, through Paul. Again we return to verse 24 where an angel of God tells Paul, not only that he must stand before Caesar, but also that God will grant everyone travelling with Paul their lives. From this then Paul speaks our nugget verses today.

And in these verses Paul speaks of faith in God. It is now, at their most desperate point, that perhaps they will hear and understand the message of faith. Paul is encouraged by the words of the angel and he takes those words and encourages his shipmates. And more he instructs them, prophetically, about what will take place. Yes we will run aground, but no lives will be lost. The future is certain, because of the faith of this one man who speaks as prophet speaks. He tells the truth of God. In this case that truth is about the future, but nonetheless, it is God's truth this prophet speaks.

Sort of like Jonah. But in Jonah's case they had to throw *him* overboard in order for God's wrath to be placated. But in Paul's case they simply throw the profit from the ship, the cargo, overboard and they keep the Prophet of God. God's wrath is not the cause of this storm, or any other. Because God's wrath has been poured out on Jesus Christ on the cross, He no longer has wrath on us. Oh, He may and will teach us lessons, but those involve trust in Him and His word.

Like those in this voyage. They hear the word of God spoken and are given hope, where they had lost all hope. They are given a future in the God that Paul serves, but without all the baggage they had brought on board. They are shipwrecked, yes, but they have life, as the prophet of God said they would.

APPLICATION -

1. Paul had a 'captive audience' in his ship-mates, but that didn't stop him from preaching hope given to him by God. Remember that times of fear and anxiety in those around us, give us an opportunity to express hope in Jesus.
2. When we encounter fear or increased stress in our own life, we lose focus on the truth that God is in control. Keeping a cross in a prominent place can be a reminder of God's love and care in face of whatever danger or fear we are facing. It's not a replacement for faith but a reminder of it.

PRAY – Oh God of wind and waves, no matter the storm I'm moving toward or coming out of, keep me mindful of Your mercy and faithfulness. In Jesus name, Amen.