

Acts: The Church on Earth

The Voyage

Acts 27:1-12

In Acts, we're looking at the Church on Earth

- The church isn't a building, it's people
- The **body** of Jesus - living, moving, doing the things He did and does
- By the power and influence of the Holy Spirit. Possessed by God.
- The church isn't perfect, but it's **called** to be Holy
- **The early church lived earnestly for Christ**

The difference of discipleship

Previously

- Saul, the Pharisee, violently persecutes the church
- Jesus knocks him off his high horse, Calls him
- The 12th apostle
- Preached to Gentiles, rejected by the Jews
- On trial for stirring up the people...yet no crime
- Paul preaches to kings and rulers, appeals to Caesar

"The Christian believes the Bible because he has met its Author." — Ray Comfort

The difference of relationship

[Pray]

Read 27:1-2

Time to go to Rome

Centurion, Julius

Regiment maybe 400 men, varied during years

Roman guards would face death penalty for losing prisoners

Ship from Adramyttium

a seaport of Mysia (Bursa, south of Istanbul)

"I shall abide in death"

[Philippians 1:21 KJV] For to me to live [is] Christ, and to die [is] gain.

V2 With us

Luke was with Paul and as we see here, Aristarchus came along for this journey

:3-9**Julius treated Paul kindly**

God's favor through this Gentile, Roman, soldier

Remember: the prison system is different. No 3 square meals, no cable TV. The people in your life must come care for you, bring you food, clothing, etc...or you would literally rot.

As cruel as it was, it would certainly deter crime and prevent overcrowding...although likely meaning a slow, awful death for most.

Luke with Paul, now Aristarchus

Sidon - The speed of travel - 60-100 miles in a day?

Windward/leeward

Very in tune with weather

Like traveling in the winter for us. Heading over a pass. Down through a long stretch of uninhabited area. Things many city folk don't understand.

This was a shuttle bus for Paul

They would board another ship, a Greek one, going to Italy

Layover in Denver

Sailed slowly, the wind did not allow

Again, how tied to the earth for travel. No motors, no masses of slaves rowing the ship like in Ben Hur.

If there was no wind, there was no go.

[John 3:8 NKJV] "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

The difference of the Spirit, and the life led by it

Just like the ships, when God's wind blows we find our way progressing. But when we're not moving, it's because we're out of the wind or we're God doesn't want us to move

Known many people in life, we all have, but there seems to be a difference, even amongst believers.

**Those blown by the wind of the Spirit
Those blown by the wind of the world.**

Those tossed by the storms of this life.
Those who walk on water.

The difference in discipleship is not always being perfect, but a course of life sailing on God's winds. Making decisions based on prayer, based on the desires of His spirit, and not the desires of the flesh.

Moving to a new house, a new town...not for the school district. Not for the money. But because they've felt called by God to go and minister there. Whether the money was better or worse. Whether the neighborhood was safer or rougher didn't matter so much. It was whether or not God was blowing them there.

They sailed around Cyprus, near the coastlines. Avoiding bad weather, looking for wind. Even today, planes west/east and travel times based on flying into the wind or with the wind.

Time lost, voyage now dangerous
Day of Atonement, Early October
Winter coming

**2 Tim 4:21a, Paul to Timothy:
Do your utmost to come before winter.**

[Matthew 24:15-16, 20-21 NKJV] "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ... "And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

[John 9:4 NKJV] "I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; [the] night is coming when no one can work.

The runs on milk and bread before a storm are because people are unprepared

God would have us be prepared, and not just in milk and bread, but in the work of heaven.

It's growing dark. It's already cold. Being a Christian is very hard in our world. Not as hard as in Paul's day, but it is getting close and it is worse in some ways.

The news, the things going on in the world. The weight and grief and righteous anger I feel reading headlines and tweets and other things.

Yet God sees EVERYTHING all the time. He sees even the hearts of men. What we do in secret.

I do not know how he has not thoroughly burned down this whole place, and every last one of us already. **It really does show that God IS love.**

But the day is coming...and fast. Are we ready?

:10-12

I perceive...

to be a spectator, look at, behold
to view attentively, take a view of, survey
to view mentally, consider
to see
to perceive with the eyes, to enjoy the presence of one
to discern, descry
to ascertain, find out by seeing

Paul was observant. He wasn't a worry wort.

[Proverbs 26:13 NKJV] The lazy [man] says, "[There is] a lion in the road! A fierce lion [is] in the streets!"

People will find all sorts of excuses, real and not, to not do what they ought. To not have fun. To not take mild risk, go on adventure, a rollercoaster.

This was not Paul.

Wisdom looks at the reality of life around and makes sober decisions.

Not going to Mexico right now.
 Considering what institutions you put your money in.
 My brother buying a pistol a few years ago

There are logical responses to stimuli that are not solely rooted in fear.
 Although the fear of not having toilet paper and stocking up is a logical one!

Yet, the one led by the Spirit may be the one, who after careful prayer and consideration, counts the cost and still presses on through a storm, into a fire, or worse...to death.

[Luke 22:41-44 NKJV] And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done." Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

[Philippians 3:7-8 NKJV] But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ

[Luke 14:26-33 NKJV] "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. "And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. "For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has [enough] to finish [it]-- "lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see [it] begin to mock him, "saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' "Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? "Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. "So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.

The cost of discipleship

I think the difference between those two people groups, even within Christianity, is the cost of discipleship

- 1 - The either don't know the cost or that there is one or what actually is the payment
- 2 - They know the cost, and it's too much. They'll give a little, but not their all
- 3 - In either of these cases, I think we're missing the cost of Jesus on the cross.

Because when we realize what he paid, and what he's worth, the cost of discipleship to us is in a sense, nothing, it's all rubbish, easily discarded at times for the reward of knowing him

Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face; And the things of earth will grow strangely dim In the light of His glory and grace.

[Philippians 3:10-11 NKJV] that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Centurion was in charge in the end, but he took the advise of the captain and the owner

- The captain was probably a hard, sea-fairing man. Perhaps stubborn, unwilling to be afraid or not press on because of a little storm. Or thinking he can get them through and there before the weather hits.
- Lots of old wisdom from sea-fairing folks about the weather
- But even the weatherman is wrong when we have radar, long-term forecasts, computers and satellite imagery
- The owner potentially only cared about the money. He was paying for the voyage. Had cargo and any minute the ship wasn't working was lost money.

Besides, the boat can't stay here all winter.

It wasn't protected enough.

They aimed to reach the south side of Crete. A sheltered harbor with and the island of Crete between it and the winter storms from the west.

At least 365 maybe 400 miles from the west coast of Cyprus

Long journey to make before the weather of winter...

The Majority Decided...

"Democracy" isn't always a good idea. The group of lemmings can decide to go off a cliff
 "If your friends were all jumping off a bridge, would you?"

A representative republic is a better idea, but just because an idea gets more popular votes doesn't mean it's good or it's right or it'll work out.

The voice of reason can sometimes be a lone voice, of an old man, who's not a sailor.

[Ecclesiastes 9:16-17 NKJV] Then I said: "Wisdom [is] better than strength. Nevertheless the poor man's wisdom [is] despised, And his words are not heard. Words of the wise, [spoken] quietly, [should be] heard Rather than the shout of a ruler of fools.

Take all voices into prayerful consideration...listen to the Lord. Let him call the shots, no matter what other voices and concerns in life say...

[Isaiah 30:21 NKJV] Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This [is] the way, walk in it," Whenever you turn to the right hand Or whenever you turn to the left.