

Friday, June 11  
Prayer Meeting  
Robert Ching

## “Shipwreck on Malta” | Devotion on Acts 27

- o Apostle Paul stands apart from the giants of the Christian faith.
- o Himself a rabbi and a Roman citizen, strict Pharisees adhering to the Law, and fierce persecutor of early Christians. He was present when Stephen was stoned to death.
- o Saw the risen Lord on the road to Damascus, the one who he persecuted. See Acts 9
- o The Lord converted him, and chose him to preach salvation to the gentiles
- o Paul wrote the majority of Epistles to the churches.
- o He penned the core doctrines of the Christian faith
- o His life adventures read like pages from the “Indiana Jones” novels, see 2 Corinthians 11:24-27
  
- o His final years were climactic – see Acts 27-28
  1. Shipwreck at Malta Acts 27
  2. Ministry on Malta Acts 28:1-10 (See similarity of how native Indians cared for the early Pilgrims)
  3. House prison in Roman Acts 28:11-31
  
- o Luke’s record of the shipwreck is scientifically and nautically accurate. Acts 27:9-37
  1. Scholars triangulate the location at “St. Paul’s island”, off from the tip of Malta.
  2. See “Apostle Paul's Shipwreck-An Historical Examination of Acts 27 and 28” by Jefferson White
  
- o As we read 27:9-37, please list the time, duration, places, distances, weather, directions they are heading.
  1. Time was after Fasting – day of atonement, and before winter
  2. Very descriptive of the areas. Look like the writer knows about sea faring
  3. Very descriptive of vessels
  4. Details of what they do leaving no doubt this is a true event
  5. 276 people on board the last grain ship without food for 14 days
  6. Raging storms
  7. Neither sun nor stars for many days
  
- o What were the physical, emotional and spiritual conditions of the people?
  1. Without food due to toss of cargo overboard
  2. Sea sick in a fierce storms
  3. Lost hope in total despair
  4. Even worst, the sailors decide to abandon ship
  5. Hungry, cold, sea sick, vomiting, wet
  6. Paul not young any more
  7. In panic mode
  
- o Where do you see Practical Christianity practiced?
  1. Paul gave the warning v9-10

2. Paul bring them encouragement 1) promise from God v23, &24, 2) Faith in God v. 25
  3. Paul steps in as the man of God bringing in hope and salvation
  4. Paul urged them to eat
  5. Give thanks in front of the people, and eat – He displays calmness and faith in God that life will be preserved
  6. People are encouraged and follow Paul to eat before last dash for their life
- o How do you see Romans 8:28 & 35 fulfilled in these verses?
1. 28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.
  2. The story did not end in disaster, but end in glory when Paul ministered at Malta. Without the shipwreck, gospel will not be brought to Malta.
  3. 250 witnessed the salvation of the Lord
  4. Had Paul was not on board the ship, the ship would still run aground, and all lives will be lost.
  5. Since Paul was a prisoner under the care of the centurion, his advice was able to reach the captain.
- o 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword
1. Paul did not desert Christ in dangerous moments
  2. Paul glorified God more
  3. His love for Christ compelled him to stick with the group
  4. God will Paul to reach Rome alive. Nothing can frustrate His plan.