



ACTS 27:33-28:10

EVEN IN AFFLICTION, GOD'S PEOPLE
INFLUENCE THE WORLD FOR JESUS CHRIST

CONFIDENCE IN GOD'S PROMISES AND GOD'S PROVISION SHINES IN THE DARKNESS (27:33-38)

³³ As day was about to dawn, Paul urged them all to take some food, saying, "Today is the fourteenth day that you have continued in suspense and without food, having taken nothing. ³⁴ Therefore I urge you to take some food. For it will give you strength, for not a hair is to perish from the head of any of you."

- The intensity of the fourteen-day storm passes
- At daybreak, Paul addresses the haggard crew, soldiers, passengers, and fellow prisoners
- Those on board have been through fourteen days of physically and emotionally exhausting trauma
- Paul recounts to them the promise he was given by the angel from the Lord that all will be safe – *"not a hair is to perish from the head of any of you."*
 - The people needed to hear and see Paul's confidence in the promise of the Lord
 - If we believe the word of the Lord, people need to hear and see it in us
 - 2 Samuel 22:31
 - Matthew 28:20b
- Sometimes people need to hear words of hope and practical direction
- May God grant us confidence, boldness, and compassion

CONFIDENCE IN GOD'S PROMISES AND GOD'S PROVISION SHINES IN THE DARKNESS (27:33-38)

³⁵ And when he had said these things, he took bread, and giving thanks to God in the presence of all he broke it and began to eat. ³⁶ Then they all were encouraged and ate some food themselves. ³⁷ (We were in all 276 persons in the ship.) ³⁸ And when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship, throwing out the wheat into the sea.

- Paul doesn't just tell them what to do, he sets an example
- Paul openly expresses his awareness of God and his gratefulness for God's care and provision
- Never underestimate the power of God to influence a good number of people

THE LORD FULFILLS HIS PROMISES OF PROTECTION AND INSPIRES FAVOR FOR PAUL (27:39-44)

³⁹ Now when it was day, they did not recognize the land, but they noticed a bay with a beach, on which they planned if possible to run the ship ashore. ⁴⁰ So they cast off the anchors and left them in the sea, at the same time loosening the ropes that tied the rudders. Then hoisting the foresail to the wind they made for the beach. ⁴¹ But striking a reef, they ran the vessel aground. The bow stuck and remained immovable, and the stern was being broken up by the surf.

- When the day dawns, the sailors see land in the distance, but they have no idea where they are
- They see a beach that looks like a good place to direct the ship

THE LORD FULFILLS HIS PROMISES OF PROTECTION AND INSPIRES FAVOR FOR PAUL (27:39-44)

⁴² The soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners, lest any should swim away and escape.

⁴³ But the centurion, wishing to save Paul, kept them from carrying out their plan. He ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and make for the land, ⁴⁴ and the rest on planks or on pieces of the ship. And so it was that all were brought safely to land.

- The Roman soldiers know they are personally responsible for each prisoner
- The Lord brought favor from the centurion to protect Paul
 - Repeatedly we've witnessed in Acts God's sovereign protection of His people overriding the ill intentions of man
 - God can grant us favor in times of affliction, but even if He doesn't, all is well
 - Daniel 3:15–18
- True to the promise of the Lord, "*all were brought safely to land*"
- The hand of the Lord is evident in every aspect of this disastrous journey

GOD'S PROTECTION MAKES AN IMPRESSION (28:1-6)

¹ After we were brought safely through, we then learned that the island was called Malta.

- Once they were on land, they found out the name of the island was Malta
- They are on this island by God's direction and protection

² The native people showed us unusual kindness, for they kindled a fire and welcomed us all, because it had begun to rain and was cold.

- The “*native people*” (barbaros – not fluent in Greek and Latin – foreigners; barbarians) were incredibly kind
- These are down-home folk giving these shipwrecked people down-home kindness

GOD'S PROTECTION MAKES AN IMPRESSION (28:1-6)

³ When Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and put them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened on his hand. ⁴ When the native people saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, "No doubt this man is a murderer. Though he has escaped from the sea, Justice has not allowed him to live." ⁵ He, however, shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm.

- Paul didn't view himself as being above menial labor
 - He willingly gathered fuel for the fire
 - Paul takes the initiative to speak and to serve
- While placing the wood on the fire, a venomous snake latched on to his hand
- The people of the island who witnessed the snake bite concluded Paul was a murderer and his eventual death was the god's way of giving Paul justice

GOD'S PROTECTION MAKES AN IMPRESSION (28:1-6)

⁶ They were waiting for him to swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But when they had waited a long time and saw no misfortune come to him, they changed their minds and said that he was a god.

- Since Paul suffered no ill effects from the bite, they determined that he was a god, not a man
- Crowds of people can be fickle, turning from bad to good and good to bad
- May God help us all to use the favor we find with people as an opportunity to make much of Jesus

GOD'S GRACE POWERFULLY IMPACTS THE ISLAND OF MALTA (28:7-10)

⁷ Now in the neighborhood of that place were lands belonging to the chief man of the island, named Publius, who received us and entertained us hospitably for three days. ⁸ It happened that the father of Publius lay sick with fever and dysentery. And Paul visited him and prayed, and putting his hands on him, healed him. ⁹ And when this had taken place, the rest of the people on the island who had diseases also came and were cured. ¹⁰ They also honored us greatly, and when we were about to sail, they put on board whatever we needed.

- Publius was a wealthy man of prominence on the island of Malta
- Publius' dad was sick from dysentery
 - Paul visited him and prayed for his healing
 - God's healing grace was shared through Paul for the sick and diseased on the island
- Look what the storm blew in!
 - A storm blew in incredible blessings from God that winter
 - Paul didn't view this voyage and wreck as a disheartening problem but as an opportunity to share hope in Jesus
- God stirs the hearts of the people on the island, and they grant Paul and his associates great favor and provisions
- The light of Jesus Christ shines in Paul, Luke, and Aristarchus and they want to share that light with as many people as possible

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- How can you be more attentive to the promptings of God to show compassion and give direction to people outside of Jesus Christ?
- In what ways do you see confidence in the promises of God evident in your life?
- How can you better share confidence in God's promises?
- Knowing the repeated Scriptural examples of the Lord giving His people favor from unbelievers, how should this understanding impact your prayer life?
- Why is it important to look for gospel opportunities when you experience storms in life?



ACTS 27:33-28:10

EVEN IN AFFLICTION, GOD'S PEOPLE
INFLUENCE THE WORLD FOR JESUS CHRIST