

Acts 27

Acts 27 gives us a chance to see Paul as a regular guy. He's not in a synagogue preaching to Jews. He's not in a marketplace or a community hall preaching to Gentiles. He's not on trial giving a defense of the resurrection. He's not the Apostle Paul writing a letter to a Church. He's on a ship at sea in a storm. He's shipwrecked. He's stranded on an island. He's a prisoner with other prisoners.

In essence, the great apostle Paul was stripped of his identity and became a "nobody."

This section of Scripture shows us the gospel in action in several ways:

1) *God can work in the lives of people for their good and His glory when their personal circumstances are shattered.* Even when Paul's credentials are removed and he is in a totally different set of circumstances, he still finds ministry opportunities. Some of that should be credited to God's miraculous work in and around Paul. Some of that should be credited to Paul's character and love for people.

2) *Christians can maintain their hope in the Lord even when all seems hopeless.* Paul was promised Rome. Getting to Rome would prove risky and difficult. There were moments when all seemed lost. Yet Paul's hope was not in circumstances but in the Lord.

3) *God's kindness and sovereignty CAN be displayed at the same time.* God's kindness is demonstrated in several ways. For instance, Paul receives an angelic visit that affirms he will make it to Rome. Then something else is added: All those with Paul will make it to Rome as well. ***God, in His sovereignty is able to do that. God, in His kindness wants to do that.***

4) *The gospel in Paul's life is displayed in his love for people.* Paul has become a godly man. This was a man who was as lost as lost could be. As a persecutor of the Church, Paul hated people who were opposed to his view of Judaism but his heart has been changed.

Home Group Discussion Questions:

1. Please read Acts 27. For "extra credit" read Acts 28:1-10. What stands out to you as significant, unusual or intriguing as you read through that?
2. "It's possible for God to work in the lives of people for His glory and for their good even when their personal circumstances are shattered." You may not have experienced a "shattering," but how about a change or surprise or challenge of some type. Did you see God at work? Are you still waiting for God to do His work?
3. What's the connection between God's kindness and Paul's circumstances in Acts 27?
4. What's the connection between God's kindness and the gospel? (Romans 2:4)
5. In what ways does God show His kindness to us on a daily basis? In what ways has God shown His kindness to you?