The Book of Acts Lesson 48

“The Comfort of Friends”

Acts 27:1-12

Introduction: Paul had been living in Caesarea for nearly two years. As he prepared to leave, we see the words, “we should sail.” The use of the first plural pronoun “we” indicates that Paul’s physician friend, Luke was back with him.

Paul had taken advantage of his right as a Roman citizen to go to Rome and have his case heard by Caesar. So now, Paul must have been excited after waiting so long. They would travel to Sidon (seventy miles north) then pass Cyprus seeking shelter from the winds, and arrive in Myra in Lycia. There, they changed ships and traveled many days to Cnidus and then on to Crete.

I. Traveling with Friends brings Comfort

A. Passengers on the Journey

1. A Roman Centurion

a. Julius as a man who would have been strong and self-reliant based upon his experiences in life.

b. His solution to any problem would be to go in the direction that looked like it would work best.

# c. Many people in society today look to themselves and what they think will work best in the situations of life.

2. The Crew of Adramyttium

a. The crew was probably paid by the profit made on each voyage and the price of its cargo.

b. These were men of the world and felt no need for religion.

1) Many seaman were very superstitious

2) Many looked for omens and signs to tell them if journey would be prosperous.

# c. But when Paul warned them to wait, he was ignored.

3. The Prisoners

a. The prisoners were being taken for execution, imprisonment or trial for their crimes.

b. This group would have been desperate men.

B. Partners in the Ministry

1. Faithful Friends

a. Luke, the Physician

1) Paul had suffered much physically and it was known that he had some eye problem.

2) There were also physical hardships from the beatings, etc.

b. Aristarchus, the Thessalonican

1) Gauis and Aristarchus -Paul’s companions -Acts19:29

2) Aristarcus also suffered martyrdom under Nero.

2. Helpful Friends

a. They love at all times.

1) We should be slow in choosing a friend.

2) We should be slower in changing friends.

b. They sharpen you.

1) Don’t emphasize finding good friends.

2) Emphasize being a good friend.

# c. They avoid gossip.

1) Real friends do not need an explanation.

2) You will not know who your true friends are until you experience adversity.

C. Perception of the Apostle Paul

1. Paul admonished the Passengers

a. Paul was a very experienced traveler in addition to being a man of God.

b. It was past the feast that was held to mark the day of Atonement.

1) This meant the weather was changing.

2) Mid to late fall was a dangerous time to travel the Mediterranean.

# c. Paul had already experienced two shipwrecks.

2. The Crew ignored the Admonishment.

a. The world thinks little of biblical perception.

b. Many people think of Christians as being “poorly educated and easily influenced” (Time magazine)

# c. Paul knew from experience and his advice was wise.

d. They headed to Phenice (Phoenix) which was about forty miles away.

e. This was a decision they would later regret.

C. Purpose of the Whole Picture

1. God threw Paul into a strange mix of people

a. God often puts us with people that we would not choose to be in the company.

1) He uses us for these people’s learning.

2) He uses these people for our learning.

b. God often puts people who there for our learning.

2. Paul had the right perspective.

II. Qualities of Leaders Promote Comfort

A. Confident

1. In times of uncertainty (27:27-28)

a. The confident leader knows he is drawing near to his heavenly country

b. The confident leader will understand our times

b. The confident leader tries to understand the need of others

2. In times of fear (27:29)

a. The confident leader is anchored to the Rock of Ages!

b. The confident leader will provide leadership in the midst of the storm.

3. In times of unfaithfulness (27:30-32)

a. The confident leader stays in his place when everybody else is ready to turn and run.

b. The confident leader leads to rightness despite the opposition of others.

B. Concerned

1. For Others (27:33-34)

a. His own Family

b. The Church Family

# c. Friends

d. Community

2. For the Lost

a. Reaching out

b. Exhorting others to reach out

# c. Mentoring

3. For the weak

C. Contagious

1. Courage is contagious (27:35-38)

a. A leader is one who has followers.

b. He is someone whose followers do the right thing.

2. Care is contagious (27:39-44)

a. Leadership is not rank or privileges, titles or money.

b. Leadership is responsibility.

II. You have a Friendship in Your Leader

Conclusion: Popularity is not leadership, results are leadership. Leaders are highly visible. They, therefore, set examples.

Stay in the Ship! When it comes to:

1. Church

2. Bible Reading

3. Marriage

4. Parenting

5. Moral purity

7. Daily Living