The Book of Acts Lesson 51

Acts 28:11-15

“After the Storm”

**Introduction:** As Paul boarded the ship a few weeks earlier, little did he know what awaited him on his journey to Rome. You can always learn while traveling, especially in those days, when people traveled by sea. Paul, his companions, the ship’s crew, the other prisoners, and the soldiers had all landed safely on the island of Malta when their ship crashed on the reef. After their kind reception by the barbarians, Paul was bitten by poisonous snake. God used this to touch the people of the island. This would have happened early in their winter, which meant that no ships would be leaving soon with frigid storms setting in. Paul once again found himself waiting. When it feels like life is throwing the kitchen sink at you, sometimes all we can do is wait.

I. God gives Patience during the Storms. (v11-13)

 A. The Practice of Waiting

 1. Sometimes the Lord calms the storm

 a. We read in scripture how that He has calmed many storms

b. We know that the Bible tells us that even the mighty waters (of life) are under His command and control.

 1) Things that seem out of our control are under His control.

 2) Life itself may seem to overwhelm us like mighty waves

 3) He can calm the storm at any moment He chooses to.

4) If He has not calmed the storm it is because it hasn’t fulfilled His purpose.

#  c. We are told that even the winds and seas obey Him.

 2. Sometimes He lets the storm rage and calms His child.

 a. We can have peace in our heart when the world is racing around us.

 b. We can have peace though the battle rages on.

#  c. We can know peace in the midst of every trial of life.

 3. We need to cultivate the discipline of patience in our Christian lives.

 a. Our society is impatient.

 1) Companies sell to help people do things faster.

 2) Companies sell to help people get things quicker.

#  b. God’s timeline is not like ours.

 1) We must learn to wait and listen for His voice.

 2) We have to learn to move in His timing. *Psa 46:10-11*

 B. The Purpose of Waiting

 1. God had many things He wants us to learn.

 a. Too often we are like the shipmen who would not listen to the advice of God’s man.

b. For disregarding Paul’s advice, the men learned through difficulties and danger.

#  c. It is foolish not to learn until experience has taught you.

 1) This is why pastors, parents and leaders exhort youth to trust their guidance

 2) This is why pastors exhort members to know and to trust in God’s Word

 3) This is why leaders exhort people to just wait and continue to seek the Lord

 (a) even when it appears that all looks good

 (b) even when you think you know best and understand what is going on

 (c) even when every aspect of your situation points to positive things

 2. God wants us to minister to certain people.

 a. There is always someone to whom we can reach out.

 b. The people whose paths we cross need us to reach out.

 1) whether it be one time in passing

 2) whether it be a frequent occurrence

 3) whether it be in a daily routine.

 c. We may not understand why God lets things happen.

 1) Here were two ships, both of Alexandria, both bound for Italy

 (a) both thrown upon the same island

 (b) one is wrecked there and the other is saved

 2) Issues of man’s dealings in this world are different

 (a) Sometimes men prosper in this world to encourage man to put his hands to work.

 (b) Sometimes men fail in this world to remind them not to put their heart upon it.

 3. He knows in his own wisdom, when we need to move and when we need to wait.

 a. Learn to hear His voice (this requires standing still)

 b. Learn to heed to His voice (this requires stepping out)

#  c. Learn to appreciate His voice (this requires falling down)

 C. The Period of Waiting

 1. There comes a time when the waiting is over and the Lord says to move forward.

 a. That island was a happy shelter to them, but it was not their home

 b. when they are refreshed they must put to sea again

2. The difficulties and discouragements we have met with in our Christian course must not hinder us from pressing on.

 a. We must take shelter from events, pain, changes, etc.

 b. But remember this world is not our home

 1) Therefore trials are not a dwelling place.

 2) The disappointments that arise are not for us to drown our sorrows in.

 3) The discomforts that we experience are nothing more than a need to be refreshed.

 4) So be refreshed and get moving.

II. God gives People during the Storms. (v14)

 A. Given by God

 1. Our brothers and sisters in Christ are a gift from God to us.

 a. It is always amazing how God gives godly friendships we weren’t looking for.

 b. God has many that serve and worship him in places we don’t know about.

 2. The church is to be filled with believers encouraging each other.

 a. Paul and these Christians found each other in the midst of this strange trip.

 b. Brethren in Christ should find out one another and keep up communion with each other.

 3. Our view toward other Christians tells a lot about our own spiritual condition.

 a. Do we look at their flaws and condemn them?

 b. Do we exhort them to become more like Jesus?

 B. Given for Consolation

 1. To Encourage Fellowship

 a. Paul dad a desire to fellowship with these believers he had never met.

 b. These believers wanted to fellowship with Paul as well.

 2. To Encourage Acceptance

 a. When Christians in Italy heard Paul had arrived they came

 1) some from more than 50 miles away from home

 2) they made a public entry for him although a prisoner

 b. They counted him worthy of double honor

 3. To Encourage Assistance

 a. All along Paul’s journey from Jerusalem to Rome, God placed Christians to assist him.

 1) Some providing food

 2) Some sharing supplies to help travel

 3) Some gave lodging in the city

 4) Some simply encouraged through fellowship

 4. To Encourage Steadfastness

 a. These believers who came to greet him most likely gave Paul courage to press on.

 b. These were the Christians to whom Paul had written Romans to three years earlier.

III. God gives Persistence during the Storms. (v15)

 A. Courage in the Lord

 1. When we are frightened or discouraged we can always turn to God.

 a. This is always a choice.

 b. We can receive strength and courage from Him.

 2. We do not have to fight our battles in our own strength.

 a. Unless we depend on the Holy Spirit to empower us, we cannot have victory.

 b. He alone gives the power to serve Him.

 B. Courage for the Mission

 1. Paul never let go of His purpose for living.

 a. He had been called by God.

 b. He was not going to abandon that calling.

 2. Paul ministered in every situation.

 a. When he was tired

 b. When he was injured

#  c. When he was alone

 d. When he was weak

 2. Paul thanked God.

 a. He gave God the glory for the kindness shown to him

 1) It is God that makes them so

 2) It is God that puts it into their hearts

 3) It is God that puts into the power of their hands to

 b. that the gospel of Christ had had such wonderful success

**Conclusion:** When you feel like you cannot go on, remember that God’s grace is always there. He will always have enough to meet your needs. Consider the fact that your needs and God have already been introduced, they have already been met.