



Lesson 39 – The Voyage and Shipwreck

Based on Acts 27:1 – 28:10

Paul had appealed to Caesar, and Festus could not do otherwise than send him to Rome. They had to wait for some time for a ship to take prisoners and now at last Paul was on his way, on his next missionary trip, (in chains).

1) How does our lesson begin today?

Acts 27:1 And when it was determined that we should sail into _____, they delivered Paul and certain other prisoners unto one named Julius, a centurion of Augustus' band.

In the first century of the Christian Era traveling by sea was attended with peculiar hardship and peril. Mariners directed their course largely by the position of the sun and stars; and when these did not appear, there were indications of storm, the owners of vessels were fearful of venturing into the open sea. During a portion of the year, safe navigation was almost impossible.

2) Who was with Paul?

Acts 27:2 And entering into a ship of Adramyttium, we launched, meaning to sail by the coasts of Asia; one _____, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, being with us.

One circumstance greatly lightened the hardship of his lot, he was permitted the companionship of Luke and Aristarchus. Remember, Luke wrote the Acts of the Apostles, he was included in the "us".

3) What did Paul lovingly call Aristarchus?

Colossians 4:10 Aristarchus my _____ saluteth you, and Marcus, sister's son to Barnabas, (touching whom ye received commandments: if he come unto you, receive him;)

4) How did their journey begin?

Acts 27:3 And the next day we touched at Sidon. And Julius courteously entreated Paul, and gave him _____ to go unto his friends to refresh himself.

The voyage began prosperously. The following day they cast anchor in the harbor of Sidon. Here Julius, the centurion, "***courteously entreated Paul,***" and being informed that there were Christians in the place, "***gave him liberty to go unto his friends to refresh himself.***" This permission was greatly appreciated by the apostle, who was in feeble health.

5) What followed?

Acts 27:4-6 And when we had launched from thence, we sailed under Cyprus, because the winds were _____. And when we had sailed over the sea of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we came to Myra, a city of Lycia. And there the centurion found a ship of Alexandria sailing into _____; and he put us therein.

Upon leaving Sidon, the ship encountered contrary winds; and being driven from a direct course, its progress was slow. At Myra, in the province of Lycia, the centurion found a large Alexandrian ship, bound for the coast of Italy, and to this he immediately transferred his prisoners.



6) In the new ship, where did they go?

Acts 27:7-8 And when we had sailed slowly many days, and scarce were come over against Cnidus, the _____ not suffering us, we sailed under Crete, over against Salmone; And, hardly passing it, came unto a place which is called The _____; nigh whereunto was the city of Lasea.

7) Was it a good time to set sail?

Acts 27:9-10 Now when much time was spent, and when sailing was now _____, because the fast was now already past, Paul admonished them, And said unto them, Sirs, I perceive that this voyage will be with _____ and much damage, not only of the lading and ship, but also of our lives.

At Fair Havens they were compelled to remain for some time, waiting for favoring winds. Winter was approaching rapidly; **“sailing was now dangerous;”** and those in charge of the vessel had to give up hope of reaching their destination before the season for travel by sea should be closed for the year. The only question now to be decided was, whether to remain at Fair Havens, or attempt to reach a more favorable place in which to winter.

8) Did they listen to Paul?

Acts 27:11-12 Nevertheless the centurion believed the master and the _____ of the ship, more than those things which were spoken by Paul. And because the haven was not _____ to winter in, the more part advised to depart thence also, if by any means they might attain to Phenice, and there to winter; which is an haven of Crete, and lieth toward the south west and north west.

9) How well did that go?

Acts 27:14:15 But not long after there arose against it a _____ wind, called Euroclydon. And when the ship was caught, and could not bear up into the wind, we let her _____.

10) What did the crew do?

Acts 27:16-19 And running under a certain island which is called Clauda, we had much work to come by the _____: Which when they had taken up, they used helps, _____ the ship; and, fearing lest they should fall into the quicksands, strake sail, and so were driven. And we being exceedingly tossed with a tempest, the next day they _____ the ship; And the third day we cast out with our own hands the tackling of the ship.

The sailors made ready for the worst. The lifeboat, their only means of escape in case the ship should founder, was in tow and liable to be dashed in pieces at any moment. Their first work was to hoist this boat on board. All possible precautions were then taken to strengthen the ship and prepare it to withstand the tempest. The scant protection afforded by the little island did not avail them long, and soon they were again exposed to the full violence of the storm.

11) What did Luke record for us?

Acts 27:20 And when neither sun nor stars in many days appeared, and no small _____ lay on us, all hope that we should be saved was then taken away.

The wind did not abate. The storm-beaten ship, with its shattered mast and rent sails, was tossed hither and thither by the fury of the gale. Every moment it seemed that the groaning timbers must give way as the vessel reeled and quivered under the tempest's shock. The leak



increased rapidly, and passengers and crew worked continually at the pumps. There was not a moment's rest for any on board.

12) What did Paul tell everyone onboard?

Acts 27:21-22 But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have _____ unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss. And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no _____ of any man's life among you, but of the ship.

For fourteen days they drifted under a sunless and starless heaven. The apostle, though himself suffering physically, had words of hope for the darkest hour, a helping hand in every emergency. He grasped by faith the arm of Infinite Power, and his heart was stayed upon God. He had no fears for himself; he knew that God would preserve him to witness at Rome for the truth of Christ. But his heart yearned with pity for the poor souls around him, sinful, degraded, and unprepared to die. As he earnestly pleaded with God to spare their lives, it was revealed to him that his prayer was granted.

13) How did he know?

Acts 27:23-25 For there stood by me this night the _____ of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before _____: and, lo, God hath given thee _____ them that sail with thee. Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.

14) Where did he say they would end up?

Acts 27:26 Howbeit we must be _____ upon a certain island.

At these words, hope revived. Passengers and crew were roused from their apathy. There was much yet to be done, and every effort within their power must be put forth to avert destruction.

15) What did the sailors hear?

Acts 27:27-29 But when the fourteenth night was come, as we were driven up and down in Adria, about midnight the shipmen deemed that they drew _____ to some country; And sounded, and found it twenty fathoms: and when they had gone a little _____, they sounded again, and found it fifteen fathoms. Then fearing lest we should have _____ upon rocks, they cast four anchors out of the stern, and wished for the day.

It was on the fourteenth night of tossing on the black, heaving billows, that "**about midnight**" the sailors, hearing the sound of breakers.

16) Were all the crew believing Paul?

Acts 27:30 And as the shipmen were about to flee out of the ship, when they had let down the _____ into the sea, under colour as though they would have cast anchors out of the foreship,

17) Paul stepped in, what did he say?

Acts 27:31 Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, Except these _____ in the ship, ye cannot be saved.

18) Who did believe Paul?

Acts 27:32 Then the soldiers _____ the ropes of the boat, and let her fall off.



19) What did Paul do next with his shipmates?

Acts 27:33-35 And while the day was coming on, Paul besought them all to take _____, saying, This day is the fourteenth day that ye have tarried and continued fasting, having taken nothing. Wherefore I pray you to take some meat: for this is for your health: for there shall not an _____ fall from the head of any of you. And when he had thus spoken, he took bread, and gave thanks to _____ in presence of them all: and when he had broken it, he began to eat.

Acts 27:36-37 Then were they all of _____, and they also took some meat. And we were in all in the ship two hundred threescore and sixteen souls.

20) What did they do at daybreak?

Acts 27:39-40 And when it was day, they knew not the land: but they discovered a certain creek with a _____, into the which they were minded, if it were possible, to thrust in the ship. And when they had taken up the _____, they committed themselves unto the sea, and loosed the rudder bands, and hoised up the _____ to the wind, and made toward shore.

21) Where did the ship find its resting place?

Acts 27:41 And falling into a place where two seas met, they ran the ship _____; and the forepart stuck fast, and remained unmoveable, but the hinder part was broken with the violence of the waves.

22) What is proper protocol for prisoners in the case of shipwreck?

Acts 27:42 And the soldiers' counsel was to _____ the prisoners, lest any of them should swim out, and escape.

Paul and the other prisoners were now threatened by a fate more terrible than shipwreck. The soldiers saw that while endeavoring to reach land it would be impossible for them to keep their prisoners in charge. Every man would have all he could do to save himself. Yet if any of the prisoners were missing, the lives of those who were responsible for them would be forfeited.

23) What happened?

Acts 27:43-44 But the centurion, willing to save Paul, _____ them from their purpose; and commanded that they which could swim should cast themselves first into the sea, and get to land: And the rest, some on boards, and some on broken pieces of the ship. And so it came to pass, that they escaped _____ safe to land.

When the roll was called, not one was missing.

24) What did they do when they got on shore?

Acts 28:1-2 And when they were escaped, then they knew that the island was called _____. And the barbarous people shewed us no little kindness: for they kindled a fire, and _____ us every one, because of the present rain, and because of the cold.

25) Did that go well?

Acts 28:3-5 And when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid them on the fire, there came a _____ out of the heat, and fastened on his hand. And when the barbarians saw the venomous beast hang on his hand, they said among themselves, No doubt this man is a _____, whom, though he hath escaped the sea, yet vengeance suffereth not to live. And he shook off the beast into the fire, and felt _____.



26) What did the locals think about that?

Acts 28:6 Howbeit they looked when he should have swollen, or fallen down dead suddenly: but after they had looked a great while, and saw no harm come to him, they _____ their _____, and said that he was a god.

During the three months that the ship's company remained at Melita, Paul and his fellow laborers improved many opportunities to preach the gospel. In a remarkable manner the Lord wrought through them. For Paul's sake the entire shipwrecked company were treated with great kindness; all their wants were supplied, and upon leaving Melita they were liberally provided with everything needful for their voyage.

Can you see that if God gives you a plan, He will follow through?

Would you like to do God's will?

When is the time to ask?

