

Bible Study 11-13-2024

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"A Reason to Give Thanks" Acts 27:33-44

God specializes in the impossible (**Jeremiah 32:17, Luke 18:27**). No man can lay claim to any part of the glory that belongs to Him. Paul's journey to Italy has become more difficult and dangerous as the ship comes bow to face of the northeastern wind, Euroclydon. The captain, along with the ship's officers, made a decision to ignore God's warning and His messenger. Suddenly the ship is gripped by the violent storm and driven by ferocious winds for 14 days. The crew takes desperate measures, but still despairs of surviving. God sent an angel to Paul reminding Him of God's promise. Paul then offers a message of assurance to the others. On the fourteenth night the sailors sensed they were approaching land. They are in a perilous state. Fearing they would be dashed against the rocks, the sailors planned their escape. But Paul told the centurion and the soldiers, "unless these men stay with the ship, you cannot be saved." Note: **Psalm 65:5-7**

NIV Acts 27

33 Just before dawn Paul urged them all to eat. "For the last fourteen days," he said, "you have been in constant suspense (worried) and have gone without food-you haven't eaten anything. **Note:** Dawn, a new occurrence, a shift from darkness to light.

NIV **Philippians 4:6,7** Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God. **7** And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Song: Marvin Sapp "This is Not the Time"

34 Now I urge you to take some food. You need it to survive. Not one of you will lose a single hair from his head."

35 After he said this, he took some bread and gave thanks to God in front of them all. Then he broke it and began to eat. **Colossians 3:17**

36 They were all encouraged and ate some food themselves.

The stress of the storm and the threat of death has prevented the crew from eating. Paul knows that they will soon need energy for the rescue ahead. Taking food will be an act of confidence in God's promise to save them, and of thanksgiving for God's provisions. Paul, even though he is a lowly prisoner on the ship, now acts as host at the meal. His unusual invitation was accepted by all. This is not an observance of the Lord's supper, but it is still a meal with sacred significance. The food is God's gift, just as they are about to receive God's gift of an amazing deliverance from danger. This deliverance will ultimately point everyone to the most important realization: that God offers salvation

from something even more awful than death by shipwreck. Everyone on board (276 souls v.37) will be saved. **Song:** William Becton "Be Encouraged"

39 *When daylight came, they did not recognize the land, but they saw a bay with a sandy beach, where they decided to run the ship aground if they could.*

Beach: has a gentle slope to the sea floor. This will allow the ship to run aground without being smashed upon impact with a steep underwater sink.

40 *Cutting loose the anchors, they left them in the sea and at the same time untied the ropes that held the rudders. Then they hoisted the foresail to the wind and made for the beach.*

41 *But the ship struck a sandbar and ran aground. The bow stuck fast and would not move, and the stern was broken to pieces by the pounding of the surf. To live, everyone on board must swim to shore.*

42 *The soldiers planned to kill the prisoners to prevent any of them from swimming away and escaping.*

Roman soldiers are subject to severe punishment, even death, for failure to keep their prisoners in custody. Here the soldiers decide to put the prisoners to death on the spot rather than risk their escape. So far Paul has come safely through the storm, plots of his enemies in Jerusalem and the threats of his opponents throughout his missionary travels. Surely this isn't the end.

43 *But the centurion wanted to spare Paul's life and kept them from carrying out their plan. He ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and get to land.*

44 *The rest were to get there on planks or on pieces of the ship. In this way everyone reached land safely.*

Those who cannot swim are ordered to use whatever materials they can find to aid their escape. It is a statement of God's power and faithfulness to fulfill His promises to save. If God can save a shipload of people from a storm. He can also save a sinner from eternal death.