

Acts # 97 “Scared, Soaked and Sunk” Acts 27

In Acts 27, just like the rest of the Bible, God’s grace is an underlying force behind all events to include blessings and cursings by association and contrary to the desires of some, there are virtually no miracles to cite here.

The Christian life is not one of consistent miracles; it’s a life of application of the Word of God all the way through and Paul was a believer who knew biblical truth well and applied it and as such he became the man of the hour, a true winner used by God to lead others in a severe crisis.

Everywhere Paul went, he was followed by demons and wherever demons congregate, people nearby tend to be depressed.

We’ll see depression here and how only the Word of God breaks through it.

The Greek says he refreshed Paul; Julius is a class act, a man of great character and integrity who had capacity for unconditional love being immediately concerned for his prisoners’ wellbeing.

Ever been around someone that is refreshing and not draining? It’s wonderful!

And yes, he probably heard that the apostle Paul was a Roman citizen who’s most likely not guilty and although he didn’t have to, he treated him with the utmost respect.

To sail into the wind in good weather would slow them down but this is much worse and the slower they go, the more danger they’ll face out in the Mediterranean Sea.

Paul is not conveying divine revelation here; he’s simply using common sense in observing the situation by processing the facts and using his reason or logic to evaluate them.

Paul’s own intuitive sense tells him this is the wrong time of year to be out on the open Mediterranean Sea.

Biblical truth provides us with sound judgment and common sense in the most dangerous of critical times.

This obviously isn’t Paul’s first Rodeo as they say, so he formulates an educated opinion from his own experience.

Paul’s a frequent sea traveler who’s been shipwrecked before and he understands the dangers of the Mediterranean and so, he’s just simply offering his opinion.

Certainly, we know that this isn’t divine revelation from God to Paul to the ship’s crew and passengers because he’s predicting loss of life and when it’s all said and done, no one loses his life.

Man by his own efforts cannot cope with situations such as these, even though every possible effort has been made to do so.

Even the most excellent sailors cannot handle this storm and as far as life is concerned, the best efforts

of man cannot handle life’s deepest problems.

But God and His grace plan found a way to handle our hopeless situations!

Biblical truth carried Paul through his crisis because biblical truth is our stabilizer in life. Paul remained humble and relatively quiet but when the proper time came, he seamlessly assumed a leadership role.

Paul is confident, not in Paul or his ability to relate to his prior experiences; he's confident in God and His promises.

Leaders must have confidence to lead so that others will respect them when they see their confidence and that causes them to also have confidence themselves.

Those plagued with guilt and fear can muster limited self-centered courage from within but Paul's courage is objective, based on something/Someone outside himself due to his faith in God!

Interestingly, there are no islands in the area as far as they know and the storm is rapidly gaining force, the ship is in very serious trouble and yet Paul makes an authoritative confident statement in a hopeless situation.

The key to all successful leadership is impersonal unconditional love for all mankind which is a function of spiritual growth directly related to our learning, understanding, believing and applying biblical truth.

The sooner we arrive at the point where we're constantly expressing impersonal unconditional love for all mankind from our own spiritual self-esteem, the sooner we'll become winners, ready for the crisis as true leaders.

Good leaders have confidence, poise, good manners and thoughtfulness of others.

The key to the person for the crisis is his ability to handle abnormal pressure and unusual circumstances.

Therefore, the person for the crisis, through thought, speech or action, takes command in disaster so that those involved are not only delivered but also encouraged, changed and even profited!