



Lesson 11:

Paul sails to Rome

Acts 27-28

Note: Due to his Roman citizenship, Paul is more of a protected passenger than a prisoner on this journey. He was treated kindly and accompanied by friends, Aristarchus, a recent convert from Thessalonica who was identified as Paul's traveling companion during the silversmith riot in Acts 19 and Luke the writing physician.

1. **Read Acts 27.** What picture does Luke paint of Paul on this treacherous journey? What picture does he paint of God?

Note: *In previous lessons we have noted that our behaving is guided by our believing. Let's test the truth of this principle as it relates to Paul and then to the other passengers of this journey.*

2. Reread the chapter asking yourself, "What did each believe and how did it guide the way they behaved in this storm?"

(Thought Provoker) *Writer Lloyd Ogilvie suggests that Paul's shipwreck story provides a metaphor for the Christian life. In verse 29 it states that the passengers were afraid that they were going to be dashed against the rocks so they dropped 4 anchors and prayed for daylight.*

3. Take time to think about a "storm" that you have weathered or are weathering right now. What **four anchors** do you believe will keep the ship of your life off the rocks as you wait and pray for daylight?

4. God is in control of all of His creation. He was the one who willed that Paul go to Rome to testify. What do you learn about the life of faith when you consider that rather than make it a trip of smooth sailing, God allowed the storm and shipwreck to be part of Paul's journey? As you ponder consider these verses in **Psalm 107:1-2, 23-32**.

5. When we began this study we said that this book might have been better titled, "*The Continuing Words and Deeds of Jesus by His Spirit through His Apostles.*" How do you see Luke returning to that theme as he describes Paul on the island of Malta in **Acts 28:1-10**? (Also see Mark 16:18)

6. Read **Acts 28:11-31**. What similarities do you find in the account of Paul's arrival in Rome to his arrival in any other city that we have considered in the Book of Acts?

7. We have heard Paul announce several times that he was taking the message of God's salvation to the Gentiles (vs. 28). What hope did he have for his fellow Jews regarding salvation as he took the gospel to the Gentiles? Read **Romans 9:1- 6, 10:1-12, 11:1- 6** and **11:11-16** and share the thoughts Paul had regarding the future of his people.

8. What thoughts are evoked when you read **Acts 28:30-31**?

Closing: If you have time, will you read Paul's last letter to his friend Timothy —2 Timothy. Since it was written in the final days before his death, it is full of poignant instructions of how to carry on in his absence; it will serve the same purpose for us as we now carry on!