

A DEEPER DIVE

Acts 27: 21-44

December 1, 2024

What do you think of the new format and focus? Email me, Steve Callaway, at stvcal13@gmail.com.

Micah 6:8 – He has shown you, oh mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. (NIV)

Monday: As we are drawing to the end of Acts, it would be a good idea over the next few weeks to go back and reread the whole book through (not necessarily in one sitting though!). Maybe try to read 5-6 chapters per week, and while you are reading, look at your sermon notes for those sections, or ask the Lord to put into your heart what He would want you to remember from those chapters.

Reading – Prayerfully review Acts 27. Here is an interesting map of all of Paul's journeys. <https://viz.bible/journeys>

As you read through this section, keep in mind what Warren Wiersbe says, "God spared 276 people because of one man... God was willing to spare Sodom and Gomorrah for ten righteous people ...God holds back his judgement on this wicked world because the church is still in the world, but when we are taken away, His judgements will fall." Deep this in mind as you go through your week, and ask God how you can be used to help rescue the people you come in contact with from the coming judgement.

Prayer Focus – Spend today in personal prayer. What are you in need of? What is weighing on your heart? Health concerns? Financial issues? Dealing with sin? Are there family members and friends who are lost? Pray for them by name and ask the Lord to give you more opportunities to act in love and speak with grace to them. Lay everything you are dealing with before the Lord.

Tuesday: (Re)Reading– Acts

Consider this–Acts 27:21-26

In his first warning (v 10) Paul said that there would be loss of ship, cargo, and lives. Now, in verse 22, Paul says that the ship will be lost in the storm, but no lives will be lost. On what does he base this claim? Why do you think that his warning has changed? What does Paul say to the men, based on this encouragement? Nevertheless, Paul says they must run the ship aground. If the centurion had decided to ignore Paul again, do you think that lives would have been lost? Explain your thinking here. Paul does not say that God told him that the ship must be run aground, only that no one would die.

Prayer Focus– Keep it local. Spend today in local prayer. Remember the prayer requests and needs from Sunday (refer to your prayer list if you keep one on Sundays). Lift up the fellowship at NUBF. Pray for your pastors and elders. Pray for the workers at the church and the ministries. Pray for financial blessing so that the reach of the church can increase. Remind the Lord about what you prayed for yesterday.

Wednesday: (Re)Reading– Acts

Consider this–Acts 27:27-38

How long were the men at sea fighting the storm? When they sense that they are nearing land, what do they do to try to save their lives? What stops them? What does Paul say to the men to encourage them to eat? Notice what they do after

they eat. Paul has said that none of them will die, but they don't just "wait" for God to do something. They have the assurance from God through Paul, that they will live, but they also take action. The sailors (v 31) want to get off the ship. What do the soldiers do? Why do they do this? How has the relationship between Paul and the crew changed? Why do you think it has changed? What lessons can we learn from these actions?

Prayer Focus– Pray for our nation. Pray for our leaders. Pray for the victims and survivors of the fires, floods, hurricanes, and other disasters. Pray that in each community the churches can come together to show the grace and love of God through helping the recovery. Remember to pray for your personal needs, and the local needs.

Thursday: (Re)Reading– Acts

Consider this–Acts 27: 39-44

Describe the things that the men on the ship do once the day has come. Why do they do these things? They seem now to be following Paul's every word. The ship has run aground and is breaking up, so it is time to abandon ship. Why do the soldiers want to kill all the prisoners? In the NKJV study notes there is a comment about Roman military law. What happens to soldiers who let prisoners escape? Who stops the soldiers from carrying out what, in Roman terms, could be called their duty?

Prayer Focus–Spend today in prayer for the world. Pray for those in war zones like Ukraine and Russia, Israel, Gaza, Lebanon, Sudan, and any other place you know of. Pray for our missionary partners. Pray for those in disaster areas. Pray for a united, active, and gospel preaching church all around the world. Remember to pray for your personal needs, the local needs, and our country.

Friday: (Re)Reading– Acts

Consider this–Acts 27

In this chapter we have journeyed with Paul on his way to Rome. His confidence never falters. Despite the storm and the shipwreck Paul seems confident that his journey will not end there.

Review Acts 23:11 and Acts 27:24. Is Paul's confidence in himself, or in his experiences at sea? Despite the dire circumstances, does Paul waver in his faith and commitment to the Lord? We all have a mission to answer God's call on our lives and to serve Him, do his will, and testify about him to others. N.T. Wright asks, "As you have set about answering God's call and doing his will, what difficulties or obstacles have gotten in the way?" Paul relies on the word spoken to him from God, and from an angel. What do you rely on when obstacles and bad circumstances come your way?

Prayer Focus–Spend today praying for the soon return of Christ. Pray that while Christ's coming is still in the future, God will use you to expand His kingdom. Lift up all of the needs from the week and pray for wisdom and readiness.

Saturday: (Re)Reading– Acts

Consider this– Reread Acts 27.

Wright draws parallels between Acts 27 and the trial and execution of Jesus. He asks us to compare Acts 27 and Luke 23. Read through both accounts and see if you can recognize the way, "Paul's shipwreck corresponds to Jesus' crucifixion within Luke's narrative structure. Why does Luke do this?"

Prayer Focus–Spend today praying for the Pastors of NUBF and the people who are making things happen on Sunday. Include the teachers, the behind-the-scenes workers, the worship team, the regular attendees, and that there will be new people who come to the service and maybe meet Jesus for the first time.

Sunday: Go to church with the anticipation of hearing from the Lord.