

<b>Subject</b>	Lessons from Acts	4427
		Acts 27
<b>Title</b>	7 Lessons from Acts 27	
<b>Proposition</b>	To study Acts 27 looking for lessons to help us follow the pattern of the New Testament church.	
<b>Objective</b>	So that we can be the kind of people God would have us to be.	

### 7 LESSONS FROM ACTS 27

#### Introduction:

1. **Paul's trip to Rome is certainly an exciting one!**
  - 1) **He gives advanced warning that it would be dangerous to try to sail at the time the captain of the ship was intending to do so.**
  - 2) **The will of the owner of the ship, however, was carried out and they sailed off past the time of safe sailing.**
  - 3) **Sure enough, the EUROCLYDON (what we might call a "northeaster") wind caused havoc with the ship.**
    - 1- **It led to the emptying of the cargo, casting out the tackling, and eventually a wreck.**
    - 2- **Paul informed those on board of an announcement he had received from an angel, which guaranteed him once again that he would make it to Rome, and this time also that the fellow passengers would likewise be safe.**
    - 3- **Even so, some of the sailors were so desperate that they sought to sneak away on the small boat.**
    - 4- **Paul brought it to the attention of Julius and he and his soldiers put a stop to their escape by releasing the boat.**
  - 2) **Altogether, 276 folks were on board this ship.**
  - 3) **Though the ship was eventually destroyed when it went aground, all made it to shore safely.**

#### 2. **OUTLINE:**

1. **IN THE SHIP AT ADRAMYTTIUM (Acts 27:1-5).**
  - 1) **The company on board (1-2).**
  - 2) **From Caesarea to Sidon (3).**
  - 3) **Along the coast of Cyprus (3-4).**
  - 4) **To Myra in Lycia (5).**
2. **IN THE SHIP OF ALEXANDRIA (27:6-13).**
  - 1) **From Myra to Crete (6-7).**
  - 2) **To the Port of Fair Havens in Crete (8).**
  - 3) **Paul's advice to the captain (9-10).**
  - 4) **They sail for the Port of Phenice in Crete (11-13).**
3. **THE STORM (27:14-29).**
  - 1) **The "Euroclydon" (14-16).**
  - 2) **Undergirding the ship (17).**
  - 3) **Lightening the ship (18).**
  - 4) **A very desperate situation (19-20).**
  - 5) **Paul's vision brings cheer to all (21-26).**
  - 6) **Nearing an unknown shore (27-28).**
  - 7) **Casting anchor (29).**

4. **THE SHIPWRECK (27:30-44).**
- 1) The sailors attempt to desert the ship (30).
  - 2) The attempted desertion is foiled by Paul (31-32).
  - 3) Paul persuades the company to eat and be of good courage (33-34).
  - 4) Paul's prayer of thanksgiving (35).
  - 5) The number on board ship is 276 (37).
  - 6) They cast the wheat cargo overboard (38).
  - 7) Morning—they make for shore (39-40).
  - 8) All escape to the shore of Malta (42-44).

--Adapted from H. Leo Boles, *A Commentary on Acts of the Apostles*.

**DISCUSSION: One LESSON from Acts 27**

### 1. GREAT EXAMPLE OF A TRUE AND LOYAL FRIEND (1-2).

- Acts 27:1-2 **And when it was determined that we should sail into Italy, they delivered Paul and certain other prisoners unto one named Julius, a centurion of Augustus' band. (2) And entering into a ship of Adramyttium, we launched, meaning to sail by the coasts of Asia; one Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, being with us.**
1. **It was LUKE who wrote this record of Paul's voyage to Rome, and when he uses the PRONOUN WE, he is saying that he was with Paul.**
    - 1) **Luke had come with Paul to Jerusalem-Acts 21:17-18 And when we were come to Jerusalem, the brethren received us gladly. (18) And the day following Paul went in with us unto James; and all the elders were present.**
    - 2) **The probability is that Luke STAYED NEAR BY during the two years of Paul's imprisonment at Caesarea.**
  2. **Place yourself in Luke's shoes at this time.**
    - 1) **Do you think you might have had just a little bit of fear in standing by the side of Paul on this occasion?**
    - 2) **As it turned out, Julius treated Paul with dignity and respect.**
      - 1- **Acts 27:3 And the next day we touched at Sidon. And Julius courteously entreated Paul, and gave him liberty to go unto his friends to refresh himself.**
      - 2- **But Julius must have been one of a thousand and it would seem to me more likely that those charged with getting Paul to Rome would be less than courteous—even though they would take their responsibilities to deliver Paul to Rome quite seriously.**
  3. **When we think about Luke's loyalty, we are reminded of a statement Paul wrote near the end of his life—Acts 2 Timothy 4:11 Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.**
  4. **Also, we get the picture of how Paul felt toward Luke from Colossians 4:14 Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you.**
  5. **TRUE FRIENDS are a great treasure and when we have them it is not difficult to recognize them and to understand their great value!**
  6. **Paul was blessed with the companionship of Luke; and Luke has also blessed us with the detailed record of this important voyage to Rome.**

## One LESSON from Acts 27

**2. THE STARS TEACH A POWERFUL LESSON (20).**

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

1. Sailors RECOGNIZE that being unable to chart a course (not seeing the stars) is a HOPELESS situation!
  - 1) In those ancient times navigation was dependent upon the skies to determine a location.
  - 2) With the ship leaking and in need of repairs, the sailors knew full well that they were in desperate need of finding the nearest land QUICKLY.
  - 3) To be storm-damaged and without knowledge where you are headed was total disaster for those who understood the situation.
2. One version reads here: ...**WE FINALLY ABANDONED ALL HOPE OF BEING SAVED—NET.**
3. Would not it be a wonderful thing if those LOST IN SIN would come to recognize the desperate situation in which they find themselves?
  - 1) In the very same way that navigation is prevented without the stars, the way to heaven is hopeless WITHOUT the word of Almighty God!
  - 2) Psalms 119:105 NUN. **Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.**
  - 3) Mankind has NO PATHWAY to heaven without the guidance God's Book provides!
    - 1- 2 Peter 1:3 **According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:**
    - 2- 2 Timothy 3:16-17 **All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: (17) That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.**
    - 3- There are NOT multiple plans and one can just pick and choose one as if he would pick his food at a cafeteria!
    - 4- The one who is not looking into the word of God for his bearings and direction is simply LOST—and the sooner he comes to appreciate his lostness, the better for him.
4. In at least ONE WAY, it is wise to be like those sailors on Paul's ship to Rome!

## One LESSON from Acts 27

**3. BEING GOD'S AND SERVING GOD JUST SIMPLY GO TOGETHER (23).**

Acts 27:23 For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve,

1. Paul had a relationship with Almighty God and out of that relationship came the demand for Paul's service to Him!
2. Notice carefully how Paul speaks of himself.
  - 1) He says that he BELONGS to God.
  - 2) FIRST, God had created him in the sense that all men are created by God through Adam.
  - 3) BUT, in addition, a tremendous PRICE had been paid for Paul (and for you and me as Christians).

- 1- Because of the infinite JUSTICE of God, sin and wrongdoing have to be punished.
  - 2- It was within God's SOR that the punishment you and I and Paul deserved would be given to Jesus.
  - 3- The blood that was shed at Calvary was the purchase price for the church—Acts 20:28 ... feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.
3. Paul understood very well what that great gift from God meant.
- 1) He knew that the only response that could honorably be given for such great love and mercy was to serve that loving God with all of his being.
  - 2) Paul expresses here before those other 275 passengers on the ship that he has a living God to serve.
  - 3) You and I also must understand what Paul understood and place ourselves in service to our loving and living God!

## One LESSON from Acts 27

**4. TRUST IN GOD BRINGS CHEER (25).**

Acts 27:25 Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.

1. Paul had great and good news to deliver to his fellow passengers aboard a hopelessly lost ship.
  - 1) His news was that It was God's will and plan for the Apostle to make an appearance before Caesar in Rome.
  - 2) That meant at least one person would be a survivor, but it also meant more than that.
  - 3) Verse 22 & 24 says Paul was given a message from God that there would BE NO LOSS OF LIFE on that ship—ALL TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY-SIX would be saved.
2. Now who knows how many on that ship believed what Paul said.
  - 1) Whatever the number was that believed Paul's message is the number of people who CHEERED UP immediately!
  - 2) How vitally important it is for you and me to CHEER UP and come to realize that if we live faithfully for Christ, we have no reason for gloom!
  - 3) Living in the doctrine of Christ is a JOY-filled kind of life and we need to be THE EXPRESSION of that kind of life as we go forth from the church building.
  - 4) How many people could we influence toward obeying the gospel if we simply remembered this powerful lesson from Acts 27.25?
3. Let's be the very epitome of cheer and happiness and gratitude to God for His rich blessings upon us.
  - 1) Number one, that is a much better way to live life.
  - 2) Number two, people will SEE that in us, and perhaps begin to wonder about it.
  - 3) Maybe they will inquire about why we are so cheerful.
  - 4) A door may be opened to obey a command of God—1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

## One LESSON from Acts 27

**5. SAFETY ONLY COMES IN FOLLOWING GOD'S PLAN (31).**

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

1. Many have made the decision to devise their own plan for salvation from sin.
  - 1) There is not a single man-made plan that will provide remission for a single sin!
  - 2) In the same way that the men in that ship had to stay put in order to stay safe, men today have to yield their wills to the will of the Lord.
    - 1- All men must obey the gospel plan of salvation.
    - 2- 2 Th 1.7-9 gives a **SERIOUS WARNING** to those who refuse to obey the gospel—2 Thessalonians 1:9 **Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;**
2. There is **ONLY ONE** plan of salvation:
  - 1) A person must hear—Romans 10:17 **So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. One can hear by reading.**
  - 2) Believe—John 8:24 **I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.**
  - 3) Repent—Acts 17:30-31 **And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: (31) Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.**
  - 4) Confess--Matthew 10:32-33 **Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. (33) But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.**
  - 5) Be baptized—Acts 2:38 **Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.**
  - 6) Life faithfully—Revelation 2:10 **Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.**

### One LESSON from Acts 27

#### 6. PAUL'S FAMILIARITY WITH OT SCRIPTURE IS SO OBVIOUS (34).

- Acts 27:34 **Wherefore I pray you to take some meat: for this is for your health: for there shall not an hair fall from the head of any of you.**
1. Even in his **NON-PREACHING** speech, he spoke words from Scripture.
    - 1) 1 Samuel 14:45 **And the people said unto Saul, Shall Jonathan die, who hath wrought this great salvation in Israel? God forbid: as the LORD liveth, there shall not one hair of his head fall to the ground; for he hath wrought with God this day. So the people rescued Jonathan, that he died not.**
    - 2) 1 Kings 1:52 **And Solomon said, If he will shew himself a worthy man, there shall not an hair of him fall to the earth: but if wickedness shall be found in him, he shall die.**
  2. That kind of familiarity with Scripture does not come from a casual acquaintance with the word of God.

3. What a blessing we could be to so many others by making it our goal to have a high degree of familiarity with the word of God!
4. When our everyday conversation is sprinkled with words of Scripture, what a pleasant fruit that will produce with the Lord's help!

One LESSON from Acts 27

**7. TREMENDOUS BLESSINGS CAN ACCRUE TO FRIENDS, ASSOCIATES, AND COMPANIONS OF RIGHTEOUS MEN (43).**

Acts 27:43 But the centurion, willing to save Paul, kept them from their purpose; and commanded that they which could swim should cast themselves first into the sea, and get to land:

1. When the ship struck land, the advice of the soldiers was to kill the prisoners lest they should escape (v. 42).
2. That was NOT the plan of the centurion on duty.
3. All of their lives were spared because the centurion was willing to save Paul.
4. Do we need to wonder how the centurion came to have that desire to save Paul? *Think back for just a moment.*
  - 1) Remember Abraham? JUST TEN righteous souls could have spared Sodom (Gen 18.32).
  - 2) Christians are the SALT OF THE EARTH and THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD (Mt 5.13-14).
  - 3) Proverbs 14:34 Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.
5. God had already promised Paul that there would be no loss of life of any on the ship.

**Conclusion:**

1. How VERY BLESSED we are to have the history book of our spiritual family.
2. Can we learn lessons from those 1<sup>st</sup> Century Christians that will help us be like them in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?