

Sermon Discussion Guide:

Shipwreck

Sunday, February 4, 2024

Scripture: **Acts 27:1–44**

Series: **The Spirit & The Church**

OVERVIEW

As we near the end of Acts, we see Paul, along with other prisoners, being escorted to Rome by a Roman centurion and his soldiers. If you have a Bible with maps in the back, see if you can find one that shows Paul's journey to Rome and trace the route as you read Acts chapter 27.

This should have been a fairly routine and uneventful trip, but the journey turns out to be treacherous and ends in shipwreck on the island of Malta. In this story we see pain and suffering but we also see God's providence and protection and the main point considered in the sermon is that **God's providence and protection do not eliminate pain—but do establish purpose.**

CORROBORATING TEXTS

1 Peter 2:21-25; Psalm 46:1; Psalm 91:1-6; Matthew 6:19-21; 2 Corinthians 8:9; James 2:5; James 1:2-4; Acts 23; 1 Peter 4:12-19

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe a time when life threw you a curveball and you were thrown into unexpected chaos. Perhaps you're even in the midst of something now. How did your own decisions contribute to the situation, and how did other people's actions play a part?
2. Discuss how Paul arrived at the circumstances described in this passage. Revisit the story since Paul and his team returned from their third missionary journey. Do you think Paul was second-guessing his decision to appeal to Caesar? Would you?
3. A few weeks ago we discussed how the doctrine of providence helps us to see God in every part of our lives. What does your chaos look like to God? Can we believe God's promises if we're not sure he's in control?
4. What does God's protection look like in a believer's life? What does it look like in your life? How might we misunderstand God's promises with respect to His protection? Would we understand God's providence and protection if we didn't see it worked out in our pain?
5. How does God's providence and protection establish your purpose? What has God created you to be and to do?
6. God uses all things to point us to Christ. Reflect again on the times of chaos that you shared earlier. Can you see God's providence and protection and your purpose? If you can't directly see these in your circumstances, do you trust in His providence and in His protection to accomplish His purpose?