

## **THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

*Doctrine and Duty for Disciples Series*

Acts of the Apostles

### **Safe in the Shipwreck**

**Acts 27:27-44**

[27] Now when the fourteenth night had come, as we were driven up and down in the Adriatic Sea, about midnight the sailors sensed that they were drawing near some land. [28] And they took soundings and found it to be twenty fathoms; and when they had gone a little farther, they took soundings again and found it to be fifteen fathoms. [29] Then, fearing lest we should run aground on the rocks, they dropped four anchors from the stern, and prayed for day to come. [30] And as the sailors were seeking to escape from the ship, when they had let down the skiff into the sea, under pretense of putting out anchors from the prow, [31] Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, "Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved." [32] Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the skiff and let it fall off. [33] And as day was about to dawn, Paul implored them all to take food, saying, "Today is the fourteenth day you have waited and continued without food, and eaten nothing. [34] Therefore I urge you to take nourishment, for this is for your survival, since not a hair will fall from the head of any of you." [35] And when he had said these things, he took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of them all; and when he had broken it he began to eat. [36] Then they were all encouraged, and also took food themselves. [37] And in all we were two hundred and seventy-six persons on the ship. [38] So when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship and threw out the wheat into the sea. [39] When it was day, they did not recognize the land; but they observed a bay with a beach, onto which they planned to run the ship if possible. [40] And they let go the anchors and left them in the sea, meanwhile loosing the rudder ropes; and they hoisted the mainsail to the wind and made for shore. [41] But striking a place where two seas met, they ran the ship aground; and the prow stuck fast and remained immovable, but the stern was being broken up by the violence of the waves. [42] And the soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners, lest any of them should swim away and escape. [43] But the centurion, wanting to save Paul, kept them from their purpose, and commanded that those who could swim should jump overboard first and get to land, [44] and the rest, some on boards and some on parts of the ship. And so it was that they all escaped safely to land.

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. They spent the last two weeks in a terrible situation at sea and they now face the treat of being shipwrecked. They prepare for the worst and pray. How do you respond when disaster is on the horizon? Candidly share if you tend to only pray only during difficult times.
2. In vv.30, why would the sailors plan to escape? Why does Paul need them to stay onboard? Did they trust Paul at this point?
3. What did Paul say in vv. 35 which they found encouraging?
  - God Word may be an encouragement to some and yet not to others. Why?
  - Share a bible verse that you find encouraging.?
4. How was the centurion used by God to fulfill His will for Paul? (Acts 27:24)
5. Although it is God's will for Paul to go to Rome, he is having a very difficult time getting there (Satanic opposition). What blessings came from this shipwreck experience (in comparison to have easy sailing in God allowing this?
6. In what situations have you depended on God for His protection? In what ways has He provided for you?
7. While weathering a storm in your life where do you find encouragement?
8. Paul trusted God to deliver on every promise He made, how does that effect how Paul served Him? Do you aspire to live the same? What holds you back?
9. Anchors keeps a ship stable during a storm and the safety of the ship depends on its anchors. What are your anchors to keep you safe (physically, emotionally, and spiritually)?

**Reflect and Apply:** When you are doing the Lord's will and, on His mission, it can be very challenging with test and trials. Do you recognize the oppositions of the enemy and the sovereignty of God? In these difficulties, pray and ask God to show you the blessings in the storms and shipwreck. Count your blessings.