



A *rise* Ω

reaching all people

LIFE
GROUPS
WEEK 39 • JAN 25

NORTHSORE'S COMPELLING STATEMENT

Hope changes everything.

ICE BREAKER

Do you have any intense boating or adventure stories that you would like to share?

BACKGROUND

In the previous chapter, Paul made his defense before King Agrippa in Caesarea. They concluded that he had done nothing “deserving death or imprisonment” (Acts 26:31) and that he could have been set free “if he had not appealed to Caesar” (v32). It was at this point that he was put on a ship sailing to Italy so that he could make his way to Rome, to stand trial before the emperor. Since the charges against him were unresolved, Paul was still traveling as a prisoner, likely chained to a Roman guard. Throughout this chapter, the word “we” is often used, indicating that Luke the physician was not merely writing about Paul’s journey, but that he was with him through this seafaring journey.

They left from Sidon, which is on the east coast of the Mediterranean Sea, and sailed north towards the Island of Cyprus, staying relatively near the coast where they were protected from the wind by the island. They eventually made it to the island of Crete, which is in the center of the Mediterranean. At this point, the fast of the Day of Atonement had passed, meaning that it was early October. This was a dangerous season to be sailing. Paul had already been shipwrecked three times, so he knew the dangers they could face at this time of year. This is why he warns the centurion not to leave Crete. Though he favored Paul and gave him many privileges, he yielded to the advice of the pilot and owner of the ship (v11), so they ventured on to their perilous journey.

In the midst of the storm when all had lost hope, God provided Paul with a promise. None of these men would perish (v24). Paul later reminds them of this and encourages them to eat to restore their strength. And after they saw Paul break bread with thanksgiving, they too were encouraged and restored their strength. God used Paul, one among 275, to encourage all of them because he had the faith to believe God’s word that was spoken to him. And just as promised, all men were spared.

REVIEW

What was meaningful from the above context or the sermon from last Sunday?

**KEY VERSES:** 27:23-24

For this very night there stood before me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship, and he said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you.'

READ: Acts 27:1-28:10**HEAD LEVEL:** *What does it say? These help us to examine what the Word tells us.*

1. Where was Paul sailing and why?
2. Why did Paul advise against sailing any further at Crete? How did he know it was going to be dangerous? (v9-10)
3. When did they lose hope of being saved? (v20)
4. How did Paul encourage them? (vv33-36)

DEEPER DISCOVERY:

What does the Bible tell us about what our attitude should be during adversity?

Read the following verses:

- James 1:2-4
- Romans 5:3-5
- Romans 12:12
- 1 Peter 4:12-13



HEART LEVEL: *What does it mean? These questions help us shape our beliefs around the objective truth of God's word.*

1. In what ways does Paul's journey show how God's plans are carried out regardless of circumstances or human decisions?
2. Why did God allow this harsh storm even though Paul was going where God wanted him to?
3. How did Paul find strength in a dark and hopeless time?



HANDS LEVEL: *What does it mean to me? These questions help us commit to live out the truth in our everyday lives and commit to potential next steps.*

1. What character qualities does Paul show through this journey that you would like to imitate?
2. Paul believed God's Word would happen exactly as it had been told. How can we build up each other's faith so that we believe God's Word like this?
3. Paul was able to encourage a whole ship of hopeless sailors by sharing God's Word with them. Is there someone you know who is going through a rough storm? How can you encourage and provide hope to them?



MEMORY VERSE: Acts 27:25

So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told.

PRAYER REQUESTS

(Please remember that these requests are confidential and need to stay within the group.)