

Acts of the Apostles

Part 48 – Shipwreck Survivor

Acts 27

Do I genuinely care for the well-being of those around me?

- Care looks like common sense
- Care looks like prayers uttered
- Care looks like encouragement
- Care looks like meeting needs

Do I have a lifeboat?

- What is your escape?
 - This is whatever you run to deal with the anxiety, uncertainty, or stress
 - Keeping up appearances – practicing religion – sexual release – anesthetic (alcohol, drug, etc.)
 - BUT the lie is evident: getting in a small boat when the waves are high in the middle of the night is no safer than trying to hold on until morning in the big boat – the life boat is no *life* boat at all
- What requires your pretense?
 - Hiding – pretending – lying to cover up
- What do you not know how to live without?
 - Some cannot imagine their life without the lifeboat – they have no vision or hope that they can exist without it
 - Anger – identity spoken over you – habit – someone’s attention / affection – self-constructed reputation

Do I trust God when it is hardest?

- Dark and Hopeless
 - Days without the sun – some know what that feels like: don’t know which way to go, when it will end, what is going on
 - “No good can come from this – only bad” or “I am abandoned”
 - It was at that point that God spoke (and Paul spoke to the people) – at the most dire moment when there are no distractions is when we hear most clearly
 - He’s never late but He’s hardly ever early (because He wants to GROW faith in you)
- Threat and Loss
 - Trusting God when the tackle, gear, and wheat are overboard is not easy – loss of everything that you think is needed
 - Trusting God when threatened (with death!) is not easy

- Ongoing question: was God serious when He promised Paul he'd testify about Jesus in Rome? If so, then (with or without an angel appearing) he can trust God will see him through – maybe not unscathed

Questions for Discussion

1. When is a time that you can recall that you have felt “cared for?” What did that care look / sound / feel like? Who gave it to you? What makes it stick in your mind? What would it look like to give that level of “care for” to someone in need in your sphere of influence?
2. If you had to identify your lifeboat, what would it be? If we asked your spouse or most intimate friend, what s/he say?
3. Think of what you are *personally* struggling most with right now (that which is inside you, not a circumstance). Can you envision your life without that problem or sin? What kind of strategies do you use to hide it or stuff it? Read John 8.31-36. Why does Jesus speak about the relationship of freedom and truth? Why do we need Him for both?
4. Who is the person or family that you know that has gone through the hardest thing you can imagine? What did you see in them that encouraged you? That challenged you?
5. Is it harder for you to trust God when feeling hopeless or threatened? Why?