

## WHAT YOUR WORLD NEEDS FROM YOU

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Acts 27:1-44

1. What does your world need from you?
2. Notice that the question relates to your world and not the world.
3. By your world I mean your sphere of influence; those you interact with intentionally or unintentionally.
4. In this chapter Paul's world was clearly defined.
5. He was a prisoner being taken to Rome on a ship that was carrying cargo and 276 persons or souls. 37
  - a. The passengers included other prisoners, a Roman centurion named, Julius, and the soldiers under his command.
  - b. Also on board were the captain and crew of the ship along with some other passengers including some of Paul's companions.
- NOTE: We are told in verse 3 that Julius treated Paul with consideration (philanthropy).
6. Paul knew something that no one else on the ship knew, and that was that he would survive the trip no matter what happened, because shortly after his arrest we find out the following in Acts 23:11.

But on the night immediately following, the Lord stood at his side and said, "Take courage; for as you have solemnly witnessed to My cause at Jerusalem, so you must witness at Rome also."
7. The other important point is that before the trip was over every other person on board would owe their life to Paul and his relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.
8. Paul's life was defined by Jesus Christ.
9. He was who he was because of Jesus Christ.
10. What or who defines you and the life you live?
11. We need to understand that our relationship with Jesus Christ can be a part of who we are, or it can define who we are.
12. The sad fact is that many professing Christians live fragmented lives, and Jesus Christ is excluded from some or most of those fragments.
13. On the other hand, praise God, there are some followers of Jesus Christ whose lives, like Paul's life, are living expressions of Galatians 2:20.

"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me."
14. My world and your world needs us to live the kind of life Paul lived.
15. Note how Paul conducted himself on this voyage.

## I. He issued a word of warning. 1-12

A. From Caesarea the first part of the journey was on Adramyttian ship that sailed past Cyprus and then along the coast of Asia Minor to Myra, in the province of Lycia.

B. At Myra Julius, his men, and the prisoners, along with Paul transferred to an Alexandrian ship that was sailing to Italy.

C. After many days, and with great difficulty, they reached the eastern end of Crete, but the harbor was not a good place to spend the winter so plans were made to try and reach Phoenix, on the western end of the island.

D. Paul had done a lot of traveling, and he understood that the time for safe sailing was over.

E. Notice that Paul began to admonish (recommend, advise, exhort) the decision makers, and he warned them that what they were about to attempt would lead to disaster. 9-10

F. Paul's warning was ignored because Julius chose to listen to other voices. 11-12

G. As followers of Jesus Christ we need to be willing to admonish one another.

1. Rom 15:14

And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to **admonish** one another.

2. 1 Cor 4:14

I do not write these things to shame you, but to **admonish** you as my beloved children.

3. 1 Thess 5:14-15

We urge you, brethren, **admonish** the unruly (AWOL), encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone. 15 See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.

H. We also need to be careful who we listen to.

## II. He delivered a word of vindication. 13-21

A. In this section we see that initially things appeared to be going well or according to plan.

B. But before long the ship was caught up in a violent and prolonged storm.

C. The crew did all they could to secure and lighten the ship, but eventually all hope of being saved was gradually abandoned.

D. Things were so bad that there was no time or opportunity to eat.

E. At this point Paul stood up in their midst and said, "Men, you ought to have followed my advice and not to have set sail from Crete and incurred this damage and loss."

NOTE: We can't make people listen to us, but we can remind them that they should have when things turn out badly.

F. Note the interaction between Peter and Jesus that is recorded in the book of Luke.

1. Luke 22:31-34

"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; 32 but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers." 33 But he said to Him, "Lord, with You I am ready to go both to prison and to death!" 34 And He said, "I say to you, Peter, the rooster will not crow today until you have denied three times that you know Me."

2. Luke 22:60-62

But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." Immediately, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed. 61 The Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had told him, "Before a rooster crows today, you will deny Me three times." 62 And he went out and wept bitterly.

NOTE: Sometimes words are not even necessary; just a look will do.

### III. A word of assurance. 22-26

A. What a picture we have here of the aged Apostle Paul, standing in the midst of people who had no hope, the storm raging about them, speaking words of comfort and assurance.

B. Notice what he said and why he was able to say it.

1. "Take courage, for there will be no loss of life among you."

2. "This very night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood before me, saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar; and behold, in answer to your prayers for them, God has granted you all those who are sailing with you.'"

3. "Therefore, keep up your courage, men, for I believe God that it will turn out exactly as I have been told. But we must run aground on a certain island."

NOTE: God had a work Paul needed to do on Malta.

C. We also have a word of assurance for those who have no hope; who are caught up in situations over which they have not control.

D. Note also the power of prayer, and pray that God would grant to us the souls of those who share our world.

### IV. A word of wisdom. 27-32

A. Not everyone believed Paul, and at some point the sailors made plans to take their lives into their own hands.

B. Paul intervened and told Julius that it was everyone or no one.

C. At times it is necessary to warn people that the actions of others might negatively impact them.

### V. A word of encouragement. 33-38

A. There are times that life can be so demanding that we neglect the necessities of life.

B. Such was the case here.

C. Paul encouraged them to eat something, to take courage, and to believe what he was telling them.

D. This world is a mess, but those of us who are followers of Jesus Christ, along with all the souls God gives to us, will arrive safely at the destination Jesus has prepared for us.

E. Let us be like Paul; men and women of faith who set an example of courage and consistency to all those who inhabit our world.

### **APPLICATION**

1. In verses 39-44 we see the final outcome and that all 276 souls were brought safely to land.

2. What your world needs from you is for you to be the person God wants you to be in every circumstance, situation, and human interaction.

3. You can make a difference just like Paul did, because in this chapter we see the difference one person who knows and serves God can make in their world, however big or small that world may be.