

# Why Storms?

Ps David Mareko N3C 27062021

Why storms when doing right thing?

Ac 27 & Acts 28 1- 6

## Introduction

- Paul called to Rome Acts 23:11 *“But the following night the Lord stood by him and said, [a]“Be of good cheer, Paul; for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome.” Purpose*
- Rome considered the centre of the world
- Christians considered Rome the ends of the earth
- All roads lead to Rome – all lead from Rome
- Acts 1:8 *“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*
- Why struggles or storms when doing right thing?
- Some obvious - Jonah – disobedience; Jesus in boat – God’s power; Paul to Rome – witness; Us – when under the pump character shows ie Ps John - builders, certifier “irritator” led to prayer

## God knows best

Chapter 27:1-20 v1 Paul was going by boat to Rome as a prisoner v2 He was treated well by the guy in charge (Centurion named Julius). v3 **Trust** He trusted Paul (let him be cared for by friends **love each other, respect**). v7 The weather was not kind. v9 From day of Atonement (mid-September) to October storm season (Romans had only cargo & war ships) v10 Paul knew it was not a good time to travel v11 but the Centurion listened to the boat pilot. v14 – 20 “North Easter” (like a hurricane) hit the ship and they had to lighten it. The sun, moon, stars did not appear for many days (guidance system of the day - no gps)

## Lesson

- Paul had wanted to go to Rome but had not envisaged this way
- God has His way of doing things. Isa 55:8-9 *“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.”*
- God knows best
- Ps David – no plan to be Pastor and mocked his mum “mum you are nuts”. She declared he would be a pastor

- God has a way of changing our plans

v21 Paul said “you should have listened to me”. V22-24 **Love each other** He encouraged Julius. The ship will be lost but all will be saved (276). **Trust** God told Paul he would appear before Caesar v25 What God says will happen V26 but we are going to hit land. v27 Sailors suspected they were nearing land and v27 took soundings (20 fathoms, 15 fathoms) v29 and feared they were going to run aground. V30 They tried to escape (life boats) by sneaking off. v31 Paul insisted they all stay together. It was the only guarantee they would live.

### Lesson

- Waiting on Lord is hard to do especially when al going wrong.
- Our inclination - got to move ie in marriages move on, people leave a church

V42 The soldiers wanted to kill the prisoners to prevent escape but the v43 centurion (Julius) wanted to save Paul. V44 Everyone lived. Acts28:1 the Island they landed on was Malta. V2

**Hospitality** The locals were kindly and made a bon fire

### Lesson

- Bible places high value on hospitality
  - Heb 13:2 love one another *“Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.”*
  - Gen 12:3 *“I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”*
- Even the unsaved know right & wrong and help helped
- Christians need to be nice

v3 a viper comes out of the sticks Paul was gathering **Humble** and bites him. V4 Locals decide he must be a murderer who could not escape justice. V5 When Paul was unaffected they decided he must be a god.

### Lesson

- Paul would have been justified in letting others do the work.
- He remained humble and did as others did “picked up sticks”
- Personal testimony – stolen vehicle, drunk, drugs, “who wants to fly?” He drove at a high speed down hill which had an unexpected bend. The car ended up in a ditch. David does not know why but bowed head down and when the car came to rest the roof was caved in to head. He and all walked away. Not a hair of his was damaged.

- When God has purpose snake could not get him. Trust. Humility. Jesus Matt 20:28  
*"...the Son of Man did not come to be served..."*
- All storms enhance our purpose when we are in God's will.
- We should learn from every storm even if it does not make sense.
- No giving up, but stand ground as God's got your back
- We all have purpose so we should expect God to act, trust Him, remain humble, be hospitable, love each other, and respect each other.