May 26, 2024 Acts 27:1-44 "Scary Storms/Sovereign Savior"

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Can this possibly be God's will for my life? God, I do not understand, but I will trust you through this storm. God, like the time Peter stepped out on the water, help me to keep my focus on You and not on the waves crashing around me. Lord, I am convinced that you are with me in this storm and that if I keep my eyes on You, everything will be alright. Lord, sometimes I doubt, help me to be like the Dad who had a boy that was demon possessed and he asked Jesus to cast the demon out. He exclaimed, Lord I believe, help me mine unbelief, see Mark 9:24.

Luke went to great detail to describe Paul's journey to Rome. Lots of reasons have been posed as to why but some of the most likely are that Luke wanted to demonstrate God's sovereign protection and direction over Paul's ministry. It was clearly God's will that he share the gospel along the way and especially to those in Rome. Notice too that even as a prisoner Paul seemed to be the one in control, even in the areas of sea travel and handling shipwreck procedures, God is the One in control.

Sailing requires working with, not against the wind, so the journey heads one way to go the other! Sometimes it seems like we are heading the wrong way, trust the Lord!

Even as a prisoner Paul did not hesitate to make known his faith in God. They cut the life boat loose, this meant that all dependence had to be on the Lord, do you have some lifeboat in your life that would be your backup plan, thereby taking preeminence over your faith in God? Don't let your confidence rest in anything other than the Lord.

A sand bar is struck, the bow stuck firmly in the sand, the waves pounded the vessel until it broke in half. The centurion saves Paul's life along with the other prisoners on board. No killing today. God sovereignly spared Paul's life. Why worry?

Application:

The key verse in this passage, at least for me, is v 24, "and said, 'Don't be afraid, Paul. It is necessary for you to appear before Caesar. And indeed, God has graciously given you all those who are sailing with you." If God is sovereign over our lives, and He is, why worry? Reflect on Matthew 6:25-34.