

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

OCTOBER 17TH–18TH, 2026 // THE BOOK OF ACTS

DISCERNMENT (ACTS 27:1–12) THE TRIP TO ROME OFFICIALLY BEGINS

After the conversation with Agrippa and Festus, “it was decided that [they] were to sail to Italy.” Paul and “some other prisoners” were put under the care of Julius, a high-ranking Roman officer with kind tendencies.

- Once again, we see God making sure that Paul was taken care of during his mission.

ACTS 27 READS LIKE A TRAVEL JOURNAL

Luke set sail with Paul and recorded what “we” had seen. One detail is a stop in Sidon where Paul was allowed to meet with **Christian “friends”** to receive care and minister to them.

- We should treat all Christians as family unless they’ve adopted heretical beliefs or refuse to repent (1 Corinthians 5; 2 Corinthians 2).

“WITH DIFFICULTY”

The winds picked up, so the centurion found a larger ship in hopes that it would be safer. Even with a bigger ship, there was still “more difficulty” as they sailed along the coast of Turkey.

- We know this would have been late September or early October because Luke mentions Yom Kippur.

SPIRIT-FILLED AND WELL-TRAVELED

Paul was a seasoned traveler on this sea, and he felt compelled to offer the captain “advice” that they were “headed toward disaster and heavy loss.” Paul was educated but also **full of the Spirit**.

- **In the Spirit, we gain wisdom, knowledge, and discernment** (1 Corinthians 12).

“THE MAJORITY DECIDED”

The centurion went to the captain, and along with “the majority,” they decided to go to a port in Crete that seemed much safer.

- It is hard to criticize non-believers for not taking Paul’s advice, but **we shouldn’t be so foolish. Humbling ourselves to godly council is extremely wise** (Proverbs 19:20)!

THE STORM (ACTS 27:13–26) THE “NORTHEASTER”

At first, it seemed like they had made the right choice, “but before long, a fierce wind... rushed down from the island,” and they were “barely able to get control of the skiff (lifeboat).”

- Our way always seems good until storms hit. Life will have storms, but **in Christ and His Word, we have an immovable anchor**.

STARTING TO OFFLOAD THE WEIGHT

Because the storm continued, the crew started to throw the cargo overboard. Luke writes, “For many days neither sun nor stars appeared, and the severe storm kept raging.”

- Because of the length of the storm and the loss of cargo, “all hope was fading that we would be saved.”

I TOLD YOU SO

It says that they were without food, but even if they did have some, who could have eaten in this storm? In the middle of this terrible situation, Paul reminded them he was right.

- Paul encouraged them by telling them that an angel of **“the God I belong to”** had told him the ship would be lost but they would live.

RELATIONSHIP LEADS TO DIRECTION

Paul “belonged” to God. This means Paul had a deep relationship with Him. In life, it’s imperative that we “hear” from God because there will be confusion, loss, and many “storms.”

- We receive direction from Jesus when we **pray, listen, read, and obey**. **No relationship = no clarity**.

PAUL STANDING IN THE GAP

Paul knew that he would live and make it to Rome because Jesus had told him. When it came to the others, he wasn’t sure. So, more than likely, Paul **pleaded with God to spare the lives of those traveling with him**.

- Ezra 22 mentions God looking for **those who will “stand in the gap” for their people**.

ARRIVAL (ACTS 27:27–44) TWO WEEKS OF HELL

Around midnight, after what would have been 14 hellish days, the crew felt like they were approaching land. It says they feared “running aground on the rocks,” which is exactly what Paul said would happen.

- We see they’re listening to Paul when they cut off the skiff to save those trying to escape.

“PRAYED FOR DAYLIGHT”

The sailors prayed to their gods for help, but only Paul had been correct, and he emerged as the true leader. Paul had already **told them about Jesus**, now he would **demonstrate Him**.

- Paul took some bread, blessed and ate it, and encouraged all 276 of them to do the same because they were going to live.

CARING FOR OTHERS DEMONSTRATES GOD

Paul was very blatant with his faith, but he was able to do that because he obviously cared for the people around him, including the pagans, soldiers, and criminals!

- In order to **demonstrate Jesus, we must love all kinds of people while not compromising God’s Word**.

EXACTLY AS FORETOLD (VS. 39–44)

Just as Paul said, the ship was torn apart by the waves, and they ran aground as they approached land. The soldiers planned to kill the prisoners so they wouldn’t escape, but Julius stopped them so Paul would be saved.

- **Living in God’s will draws favor**, many times even from those who don’t believe.

A GOD WHO IS SOVEREIGN AND GOOD

This chapter is best read through the filter of knowing God is in control (sovereign) and is good. Jesus ordained every detail and displayed that **obedience yields salvation from life’s storms and for eternity**.

- **There will be “storms,” but how we respond and what we gravitate toward is vital**.

IN RELATIONSHIP WE FIND DIRECTION (JOHN 16:33)

- Jesus assures us we “will have suffering in this world,” but we should have courage because He has “conquered the world.”
- It is not a question of if, but of when, life will get messy. If we **humble ourselves, pray, read the Word, listen** (distractions), and **obey Scripture, we will weather the “storms.”**

THE SPIRIT AND GODLY PEOPLE

- As we build our relationship with Jesus, we become more full of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit produces fruit (Galatians 5) and provides important gifts like **wisdom, knowledge, and discernment** (1 Corinthians 12; James 1:5).
- We must also humble ourselves and **seek counsel from godly people** (Proverbs 19:20).

DEMONSTRATING GOD AND GAINING FAVOR

- As Christians, **it shouldn’t always be about our storms and us receiving counsel. Oftentimes, we are to be the ones to guide people and bring stability to the chaos**.
- In order to demonstrate God, His peace, and His wisdom, we must **genuinely love all people and be firmly anchored to His Word**.

LIFE WILL HAVE LOSS, CHAOS, AND “STORMS”

- If we are to endure and thrive, we must trust that **God knows all** and **“all things work together for the good of those who love God” AND are “conformed to the image of His Son”** (Romans 8:28–29).
- **A love of Jesus is shown in conformity (obedience) to His image** (John 14:15).

AN ALL-KNOWING, GOOD GOD

- Jesus is the all-powerful, sovereign, and loving Savior. But like the crew with Paul, **if we seek our gods for direction, we will never find the solution for life’s storms**.
- On the other hand, if we will **submit to, obey, and trust** in Jesus, we will gain clarity for ourselves and even those around us.