

"Surviving a Crisis" Acts 21-27

Introduction: We are walking through a worldwide crisis.

Context: Paul a prisoner on his way to Rome to stand trial and eventually executed.

3 Lessons to learn while travelling with God in times of Crisis.

1. In **THE STORM** with God.

- Acts 27:13-38 "*Do not be afraid*"
- Ps 107:25-30 (**READ**)

- **EXPLORE:** "If He is great enough to create a storm, He is also powerful and infinite to have some reason for letting it happen"
- God is always involved in human suffering and working out His plan.
- (**READ**) – Prov 3:5-6

MY THOUGHTS _____

2. In **THE SHIPWRECK** with God.

- Acts 27:39-44
- 27:6 Got to shore- "*Just as angel said*" (23f)
- 27:44b "*In this way everyone reached land safely.*"

- **EXPLORE:** Note the calmness of Paul - opposite of roaring, crashing, winds and waves – Inner peace
- (**READ**) – 2 Cor 11:24f
- Paul has had a few shipwreck experiences.
- Suffering has made him a person of substance.
- God is definitely in our shipwrecks.

MY THOUGHTS _____

3. In **THE PRESENCE** of God (Acts 28:1f)

- **NOTE:** Storms, Shipwrecks and a Snake
- How do you receive suffering in your life?
- (**READ**) v23 "*an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve **stood beside me***"

- **EXPLORE:** When storms come, and terrible frightening things are happening, some frightened, rejected, unloved etc.
- Paul says "*the God whose I am*" ... Not, whose I hope to be someday if I really live up to. Paul says "I am God's treasured possession, He loves me."
- In the midst of our storm, while others are wondering if there is a God, or has he abandoned me, Paul has a secret "*the God whose I am*". He knows he is loved
- **MY THOUGHTS** _____

CONCLUSION:

- What you and I need is someone who will stand with us in our storms and shipwrecks. Only Christianity says God is with you. (Rom 8:37-39)
- God himself has been through storms and shipwrecks, **remember the cross, the rejection, the torture, the loss of friends.**
- He has been through there with us.
- So Paul can say "...*God stood beside me*"
- If you trust and obey Jesus you too can be confident and say... "God stands beside me"
- Will you respond? – Mark 16:16