



Focus

By Terry Kountz on July 5, 2021

TODAY'S READING: Acts 27

In Acts 27, we see that Paul's journey to Rome was frustrating and perilous. Transferring from ship to ship, he was hauled across international waters, chained as a prisoner at the mercy of poor decision makers. Though Paul warned the centurion that pressing forward would be disastrous, the captain listened to other advice and the ship crashed, splintering into pieces. The key here is Paul's reaction to everything that came his way. Because Paul followed Jesus, it changed the way Paul acted.

Because Paul followed Jesus, he did not react to those around him in an arrogant way. He could have said, "I told you so!" I know that would have crossed my mind in that situation. But because Paul knew about loving those around him and wanting to share the gospel with them, he responded with kindness.

Because Paul followed Jesus, he was able to hear the promise and share with the crew that God promised they would all survive. And Paul knew God keeps His promises. When all hope had faded for the crew, Paul was able to share this with them.

The same is true for us. We are going to face difficult times. Jesus told us we would in John 16:33. But how do we respond in those difficult times? Do we keep following Jesus even when we are not sure how it will turn out? Do we stay connected to God so we can hear what He has to say? Do we keep those around us in view so we might be able to share Jesus with them? I pray we can follow Paul's example here and say "No matter what, I am following Jesus!"

PRAYER: Lord, keep me connected to You always through prayer and Your Word. Help me love those around me.

TOMORROW'S READING: Acts 28

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