SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of September 27, 2026

Acts 27:1-12

And when it was decided that we should sail for Italy, they delivered Paul and some other prisoners to a centurion of the Augustan Cohort named Julius. 2 And embarking in a ship of Adramyttium, which was about to sail to the ports along the coast of Asia, we put to sea, accompanied by Aristarchus, a Macedonian from Thessalonica. 3 The next day we put in at Sidon. And Julius treated Paul kindly and gave him leave to go to his friends and be cared for. 4 And putting out to sea from there we sailed under the lee of Cyprus, because the winds were against us. 5 And when we had sailed across the open sea along the coast of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we came to Myra in Lycia. 6 There the centurion found a ship of Alexandria sailing for Italy and put us on board. 7 We sailed slowly for a number of days and arrived with difficulty off Cnidus, and as the wind did not allow us to go farther, we sailed under the lee of Crete off Salmone. 8 Coasting along it with difficulty, we came to a place called Fair Havens, near which was the city of Lasea. 9 Since much time had passed, and the voyage was now dangerous because even the Fast was already over, Paul advised them, 10 saying, "Sirs, I perceive that the voyage will be with injury and much loss, not only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our lives." 11 But the centurion paid more attention to the pilot and to the owner of the ship than to what Paul said. 12 And because the harbor was not suitable to spend the winter in, the majority decided to put out to sea from there, on the chance that somehow they could reach Phoenix, a harbor of Crete, facing both southwest and northwest, and spend the winter there.

1. How does it make you feel when you read in Scripture that God regularly takes His people through very difficult, confusing, and frustrating paths as they move through life? How have you experienced God leading you this way in your own life?
2. Paul is a prisoner aboard a ship with other condemned prisoners. Such company under such circumstances was anything but encouraging. Yet, we read in v.2 that Paul was not alone. He had his brothers in Christ, Luke and Aristarchus to encourage him. How important is Christian fellowship in your life? What role do you think the church plays in helping us hold fast to our faith?
3. Although Paul has been diligently following His Lord, his journey was fraught with much difficulty and constant opposing winds. What do you do when you are trying to obey the Lord, but in doing so, you face non-stop opposition?
4. How is the power of the Holy Spirit revealed in Paul's life? How does the Holy Spirit reveal Himself in our lives today?
5. Why is it important as we encounter opposition, suffering, and uncertainty to turn our eyes to Jesus Christ? What is it about Christ that can bring us peace in the midst of personal turmoil?