

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of November 16, 2014

This Week's Focus: Paul sails to Rome and encounters a severe storm.

This Week's Text: Acts 27

"God has a purpose behind every problem. Regardless of the cause, none of your problems could happen without God's permission. Everything that happens to a child of God is "father-filtered" and he intends to use it for good even when Satan and others mean it for bad. Because God is Sovereignly in control, accidents are just incidents in God's good plan for you." **Rick Warren**

Remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose.' **Isaiah 46:9-10**

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will. **Ephesians 1:11**

Related Texts: Acts 2:22-24, 4:26-28; 1 Peter 5:5-7; Philippians 4:6-7

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What in the text/sermon was most illuminating or helpful? Why?
- The account of Paul's voyage to Rome is vivid with details. Discuss the statements in these early verses that indicate first hand experience.
- In verses 1-2, Paul has two traveling companions. Who are they and what do we know about them?
- How important are friendships when storms come into your life?
 - Describe a time when friendships helped you get through a storm.
- Why did Julius' allow the prisoner, Paul to go to his friends? How significant was this decision?

- How does God give Paul encouragement during this stormy voyage? How has God encouraged you in your storms?
- What was the reason the ship's owner and the others didn't want to stay in Fair Havens? How do pride and selfishness add to the storms of life?
- What is the significance of verses 18-19?
- Why would the apostle experience such storms and difficulties when he is obviously in the center of the will of God, on his way to Rome?
 - What does this say about God? What does this say about our trials?
- As a follower of Christ, what are some of the things we may feel and think that are untrue when facing storms?
- How does the Lord encourage Paul in verses 23-24?
- Discuss how God's sovereign promise and the responsibility of those aboard the ship work together.
 - What is the practical side of this paradox?
 - How important is it to remember this paradox when going through a storm?
- What are some practical ways God gets glory in our storms?
 - How do storms give you an opportunity to witness about Christ?
 - Share an experience when a storm in your life or someone else's opened the door for gospel-witnessing?
- Paul was promised that he and the others would survive the stormy voyage yet later in his life Nero murdered him. What does that say about the promises of God?
- Discuss the difference between a universal promise and a particular promise made to a particular people and time. What are some universal promises that you can cling to?

Gospel Celebration:

- Jesus took the storm of God's wrath so that we don't have to!
- Jesus was abandoned by the Father on the cross, taking our judgment, so that we can be eternally His!

Next Week's Text: Acts 28