

The Book of Acts

LESSON TWENTY-SEVEN

Acts 27:1-44

Day 1	Acts 27:1-8
Day 2	Acts 27:9-15
Day 3	Acts 27:16-26
Day 4	Acts 27:27-38
Day 5	Acts 27:39-44

LESSON TWENTY-SEVEN

1 Look in His Word

Feel free to underline, circle or otherwise mark text if it will aid your study.

Acts 27:1-8

¹When it was decided that we would sail for Italy, Paul and some other prisoners were handed over to a centurion named Julius, who belonged to the Imperial Regiment.

²We boarded a ship from Adramyttium about to sail for ports along the coast of the province of Asia, and we put out to sea. Aristarchus, a Macedonian from Thessalonica, was with us.

³The next day we landed at Sidon; and Julius, in kindness to Paul, allowed him to go to his friends so they might provide for his needs.

⁴From there we put out to sea again and passed to the lee of Cyprus because the winds were against us.

⁵When we had sailed across the open sea off the coast of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we landed at Myra in Lycia.

⁶There the centurion found an Alexandrian ship sailing for Italy and put us on board.

⁷We made slow headway for many days and had difficulty arriving off Cnidus. When the wind did not allow us to hold our course, we sailed to the lee of Crete, opposite Salmone.

⁸We moved along the coast with difficulty and came to a place called Fair Havens, near the town of Lasea.

2 List the Facts

What does the passage say? Make a verse-by-verse list of the most obvious, outstanding facts. Be literal as you answer.

Example:

27:1 Paul and other prisoners were handed over to a centurion.

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3 Learn from the Lessons

What does the passage mean? What lessons can be learned from these facts? Be spiritual as you answer.

Example:

27:1 Faithful servants of God can find themselves bound in an undesirable place with undesirable people under godless authority.

4 Listen to His Voice

What does this passage mean to you? Rewrite the lessons from step 3 in the form of a question. Be personal as you answer.

Example:

27:1 In what undesirable way have I been bound that makes me very thankful to be in this Bible study with wonderful friends under the authority of a godly teacher?

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1 Look in His Word

2 List the Facts

Acts 27:9-15

⁹Much time had been lost, and sailing had already become dangerous because by now it was after the Fast. So Paul warned them,

¹⁰“Men, I can see that our voyage is going to be disastrous and bring great loss to ship and cargo, and to our own lives also.”

¹¹But the centurion, instead of listening to what Paul said, followed the advice of the pilot and of the owner of the ship.

¹²Since the harbor was unsuitable to winter in, the majority decided that we should sail on, hoping to reach Phoenix and winter there. This was a harbor in Crete, facing both southwest and northwest.

¹³When a gentle south wind began to blow, they thought they had obtained what they wanted; so they weighed anchor and sailed along the shore of Crete.

¹⁴Before very long, a wind of hurricane force, called the “northeaster,” swept down from the island.

¹⁵The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along.

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3 Learn from the Lessons

4 Listen to His Voice

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1 Look in His Word

2 List the Facts

Acts 27:16-26

¹⁶As we passed to the lee of a small island called Cauda, we were hardly able to make the lifeboat secure.

¹⁷When the men had hoisted it aboard, they passed ropes under the ship itself to hold it together. Fearing that they would run aground on the sandbars of Syrtis, they lowered the sea anchor and let the ship be driven along.

¹⁸We took such a violent battering from the storm that the next day they began to throw the cargo overboard.

¹⁹On the third day, they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands.

²⁰When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved.

²¹After the men had gone a long time without food, Paul stood up before them and said: "Men, you should have taken my advice not to sail from Crete; then you would have spared yourselves this damage and loss.

²²But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed.

²³Last night an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve stood beside me

²⁴and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.'

²⁵So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me.

²⁶Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island."

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3 Learn from the Lessons

4 Listen to His Voice

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1 Look in His Word

2 List the Facts

Acts 27:27-38

²⁷On the fourteenth night we were still being driven across the Adriatic Sea, when about midnight the sailors sensed they were approaching land.

²⁸They took soundings and found that the water was a hundred and twenty feet deep. A short time later they took soundings again and found it was ninety feet deep.

²⁹Fearing that we would be dashed against the rocks, they dropped four anchors from the stern and prayed for daylight.

³⁰In an attempt to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea, pretending they were going to lower some anchors from the bow.

³¹Then Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, "Unless these men stay with the ship, you cannot be saved."

³²So the soldiers cut the ropes that held the lifeboat and let it fall away.

³³Just before dawn Paul urged them all to eat. "For the last fourteen days," he said, "you have been in constant suspense and have gone without food--you haven't eaten anything.

³⁴Now I urge you to take some food. You need it to survive. Not one of you will lose a single hair from his head."

³⁵After he said this, he took some bread and gave thanks to God in front of them all. Then he broke it and began to eat.

³⁶They were all encouraged and ate some food themselves.

³⁷Altogether there were 276 of us on board.

³⁸When they had eaten as much as they wanted, they lightened the ship by throwing the grain into the sea.

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3 Learn from the Lessons

4 Listen to His Voice

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1 Look in His Word

2 List the Facts

Acts 27:39-44

³⁹When daylight came, they did not recognize the land, but they saw a bay with a sandy beach, where they decided to run the ship aground if they could.

⁴⁰Cutting loose the anchors, they left them in the sea and at the same time untied the ropes that held the rudders. Then they hoisted the foresail to the wind and made for the beach.

⁴¹But the ship struck a sandbar and ran aground. The bow stuck fast and would not move, and the stern was broken to pieces by the pounding of the surf.

⁴²The soldiers planned to kill the prisoners to prevent any of them from swimming away and escaping.

⁴³But the centurion wanted to spare Paul's life and kept them from carrying out their plan. He ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and get to land.

⁴⁴The rest were to get there on planks or on pieces of the ship. In this way everyone reached land in safety.

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3 Learn from the Lessons

4 Listen to His Voice

5 Live in Response

How will you respond? Pinpoint what God is saying to you from this passage. Write down today's date and what you will do now about what He has said.

NOTES