

# Monday - Week Forty

## Acts Twenty-seven: The Great Ship Ride

**Summary:** The account of Paul's trip to Rome is one of the most exciting stories in the Bible. Imagine the drama of the shipwreck as it was happening!

### Background and Comments

- Scholars say that Luke's account of Paul's shipwreck is one of the best accounts of shipping in ancient literature.
- The northeaster (a typhoon like storm) must have been severe; they couldn't even secure the lifeboats at one point. Imagine how you would have felt if you had been on that boat in the middle of the sea (no SOS signals to send out!). Paul's words in verses 21-26 are precious. Paul in effect said, "Guys, I hate to say I told you so but I did tell you this would happen. But don't worry - everything will be OK. God told me that no one will be killed." Then Paul gave naval instructions about running aground on an island. His order to cut the lifeboats saved the lives of everyone on the ship.
- Paul must have been the best prisoner Julius (the centurion) ever had. The only reason Julius didn't kill the prisoners (which apparently was standard procedure) was to save Paul's life.

### Lessons for Today

- Julius was kind to Paul when he allowed Paul to spend time with his friends at Sidon. Later God was kind to Julius by keeping the ship and all its passengers safe in the shipwreck. It's interesting that he could have avoided the shipwreck altogether by listening to Paul's warning about the trip. Sometimes pastors have good advice even about things that aren't directly related to the Bible. (so writes a pastor! 😊)
- When you get in a physically dangerous situation are you quick to turn to the Lord in prayer? Have you ever been in an accident that could have been much more serious than it was? Have you thanked God for His protection?

**Read:** Psalm 25; 1 Timothy 1.

**Prayer:** Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for this weekend's church service. Guide me to remember what the readings, hymns and sermon were about. Use them to empower me to make a difference in the world around me today. Give my pastor time today to reflect on the service and to know that God was at work through him. In Jesus' name I pray; Amen..

## Tuesday - Week Forty

### Acts Twenty-eight: At Malta and Rome

**Summary:** Once Paul got to Rome he was able to testify about God's love in the most important city in the world.

#### Background and Comments

- This shipwreck was the best thing that ever happened to the people on Malta. They were able to see Paul perform miracles and listen to him preach about the Lord. Imagine what Julius must have thought when the people treated Paul like a god! Julius must have smiled in wonderment when the chief official of the island treated them so well ... especially after Paul healed his father! They received whatever supplies they needed. God was so concerned with blessing Paul that other people got to share in these blessings.
- The ship that Julius and Paul eventually used to get to Rome had a figurehead of the twin gods Castor and Pollux. These two supposedly were two sons of Zeus (the head god) who were the guardians of sailors. The figurehead on the ship didn't fool any of the passengers though; they all knew that Paul's God was the true Guardian of this trip!
- Paul preached boldly even while he was on trial. Amazing!

#### Lessons for Today

- Paul was able to live by himself while he was in Rome. He seems to have been under house arrest (assigned a guard who must have lived with Paul). This allowed Paul to talk with the Christians in Rome, write letters and see any visitors he might have.
- The Bible doesn't tell us what happened to Paul. If we read Paul's letters it seems that Paul was released from prison and was able to get to Spain to preach (a long-time dream for Paul). Paul later was rearrested in Rome and put to death.
- Some of the Jews refused to believe that Jesus was the Son of God. Verses 26 and 27 applied to them. They heard the message but rejected it. Unfortunately this passage still finds application in some people's lives today.

**Read:** Psalm 26; 1 Timothy 2.

**Prayer:** Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for people like St. Paul. Make our pastors bold and confident as they share the gospel with others. Me bold and confident as I do Your will in my life. I pray in Jesus' name; Amen.

# Wednesday - Week Forty

## Catechism Review

Read Questions 304-310

1. Explain exactly what we mean when we talk about the “ministry of the keys”.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. To whom has God given the ministry of the keys?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Have you ever used the binding key as you talked with others? What happened when you told them that their sins were not forgiven?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What will happen if congregation members think that the pastor is the only person who should talk about spiritual matters with others in the congregation?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Is there someone in your life who talks with you about spiritual matters? What sort of a person might you look for to do that important job? Are you doing this for another Christian you know?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Read:** Psalm 27; 1 Timothy 3.

**Prayer:** Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for the ministry of the keys. It’s so easy for me to talk about the weather, the latest sports news or how things are going at work. Make it equally natural for me to talk about spiritual matters. Also, Lord, lead spiritually mature people into my life who can encourage, confront and forgive me. In Jesus’ name I pray; Amen.



## Thursday - Week Forty

### John - Lesson Eleven: Trip to Jerusalem (5:1-47)

1. In the NIV verse 4 is left out because most of the Greek manuscripts do not have it included. A copyist must have included it later on to explain why the man waited by the pool. The Bible was copied by hand for hundreds and hundreds of years. There are very, very few differences between manuscripts - obviously God was in charge of keeping His Word pure! What lesson can we learn from these very diligent copyists?
2. This man might have gotten excited because he thought Jesus would help him into the pool. He had his mind set on the potential powers of the water instead of on Jesus. How do we sometimes act the same way?
3. Jesus told the man to carry his mat even though it was the Sabbath. Was Jesus making this man break the Sabbath as the Jews claimed in verse 10? (look at Exodus 20:10 and Jeremiah 17:21)
4. The verb in verse 16 means that Jesus kept on doing these things. The Jews began to prosecute Him because of His "Sabbath breaking." What got them even more upset? (v 17-18)

Explain. The Jewish leaders understand Jesus' words better than the Jehovah witnesses.

5. In verse 24 Jesus says that if we trust in Him we have eternal life. He then says that we have crossed over from death to life. The Greek word for "crossed over" means to move from one place to another, to transfer. How have we "moved" from Death City to Life City?
6. Read verse 29. Often when the Bible speaks about Judgment Day it speaks of judgment being made on the basis of works. Why?

**Read:** Psalm 28; 1 Timothy 4

**Prayer:** Dear Heavenly Father, strengthen my faith. In Jesus' name; Amen.

## Friday - Week Forty

### John - Lesson Twelve: Two Miracles (6:1-24)

1. If we compare Luke's account of this miracle (Luke 9:10-17) to John's, it seems that Jesus asked Philip about food early in the day. While He preached (Mark 6:34, Luke 9:11) the disciples tried to figure out the food problem. John 6:6 tells us that Jesus was testing Philip. Why would Jesus do that? (After all, Jesus certainly knew what Philip would do).
2. Comment: Philip's math was good but he failed to add in one thing.
3. Good old Andrew loved to bring people to Jesus (Peter, the Greeks). In these verses Andrew talked a boy out of his supper. Andrew's attitude became a bit negative though (v 9). How can we have a positive attitude that expects great things from God?
4. In Deuteronomy 18:15 Moses promised that a prophet like him would come. The ultimate fulfillment was Jesus Himself. How had the Jews mixed all of this up? (v 15) Hint: How did they think Jesus would be like Moses?
5. Matthew (14:22-23) tells us that Jesus sent the disciples away while He went up the mountain to pray. Why did Jesus do each of these?
6. How can Jesus' words in verse 20 bring us comfort in our troubles?
7. John skipped Peter's walking on the water (remember: John supplemented the other 3 books). Why did Peter sink? (Matthew 14:28-31)

**Read:** Psalm 29; 1 Timothy 5.

**Prayer:** Dear Heavenly Father, help me to keep my eyes on Jesus throughout my day. Use me to focus other people on their Savior as well. Amen.