



Sermon
Discussion
Guide

Sunday, October 26, 2025

ACTS – Faithful Witness A Witness to God's Mercy

Read/Reflect

1. Read Acts 27 – 28:16. Please take the time to read the entire story, it's a remarkable story full of details. Why do you think Luke (author of Acts) included this extensive account of a mere journey? Do you think the theme verse for the book in Acts 1:8 might have anything to do with it?
2. Recall the Old Testament story of Jonah travelling by ship to Nineveh. What parallels and comparisons (or contrasts) can you draw between the two "ship" stories? Do you think Luke may have had Jonah's story in mind when he wrote this account? [Read this article for help](#)
3. When in this story do the Christian virtues of kindness, friendship, and hospitality show up, and by whom? What does that say about our assessment of people and unbelievers.

Explore

4. How do you generally relate to the culture in which you live, and consequently to other people?
 - ☐ I'm suspicious of the surrounding culture and its people,
 - ☐ I accommodate to the surrounding culture and its people,
 - ☐ I seclude myself from the surrounding culture and its people,
 - ☐ I engage with the surrounding culture for change and its people,
 - ☐ I compromise with the surrounding culture and its people.
5. In ancient Jewish culture your neighbour was any fellow Jewish person, and your enemy was anyone else (Gentiles). The demonstrations of kindness, friendship, and hospitality between Paul and the others (Gentiles) on the ship would have seemed outrageous and unholy, especially given Paul's statement that all would be saved (27:22 & 31). In our current culture who are "the Gentiles" you've been taught to despise, even hate? How will you love them or relate to them in a manner demonstrated by Paul?
6. If the ship in Acts 27,28 is a symbol of the church (like the ark of Genesis 6-9); and Paul insists everyone must remain in the ship to be saved, how might that translate into real pictures of the church today? Who is in, who is out? Is there an "us" and "them"?

Pray

- Pray that we may look upon the people of the world in the same way that God looks upon the world, with generous love and mercy.
- Pray that we may remain "on board" through the storms and crises in our faith.