



Tell Me the Story of Jesus

Lesson 51 – Acts 27

People — Who is involved?

*Paul – journey to Rome
Aristarchus and Luke with Paul – “us” (v. 2)
Julius – centurion in charge
276 soldiers & prisoners on the second ship*

Places — Where does it happen?

*Caesarea to Sidon to Cyprus to Cilicia & Pamphilia to Myra under Crete to Fair Havens.
From Crete driven by winds for 14 days up & down the Adriatic Sea until finally wrecked on Malta.*

Pearls — What information will help me to understand better?

*Vs 1 – Notice the “we” pronoun indicating Luke is traveling with Paul. Aristarchus is also with them (2)
The “Augustan Regiment” was an imperial unit, probably assigned to Judea and Syria.
The time is likely the fall of the year in AD 60. The trip should take about five weeks by cargo ship.*

Vs 3 – Sidon had long been a sister city to Tyre and was located north of Caesarea on the coast.

Vs 4 – Cyprus is an island west of Sidon.

Vs 5 – Cilicia, Pamphilia, and Lycia were regions of Asia Minor.

Vs 6 – This ship from Alexandria is probably a private commercial cargo ship

Vs 7 – Crete is another island in the Mediterranean south of the Aegean Sea and Greece.

*Vs 9 – “The Fast” refers to the Day of Atonement, the only prescribed fast day in the Pentateuch.
The Day of Atonement took place in late September or early October annually before winter.*

*Vs. 14 – “Euryoclydon” was a northeaster wind storm which drove them into the Adriatic, not to Malta.
The word used to describe the storm is typhonikos from which we get our word “typhoon.”*

Vs 17 – The Syrtes or Syrtis Sands appear to have been shallow sand bars off the coast of Africa. Some have thought this included quicksand below the surface or may refer to sand-storms in the region.

Vs 18 – The ship was tossed (18), they tossed cargo (19), and would have tossed their lunch if eating (21).

Vs 23 – Here is the Divine help needed in the appearance and message of an angel.

Vs 28 – A “fathom” is 1.85 meters (a little less than 6 feet. So 20 fathoms would be about 120 feet deep.

Vs 35 – This is not a reference to the Lord’s Supper. Vs 36, they were “encouraged and took food.”

Vs 37 – The 276 persons would have included crew, soldiers, prisoners, and perhaps other passengers.

Vs 41 – Probably the hard clay bottom locked the ship in place.

Vs 43 – The soldiers did not wish for prisoners to escape and so wished to kill them.

Perspectives – What may I learn from this chapter?

1. Paul was encouraging and helpful to the centurion and crew even as a prisoner on this ship.
2. God was protecting Paul because he had a mission to preach the gospel for him at Rome.
3. The Providence of God saved Paul not only from the storm but also from the soldiers who desired to kill all the prisoners.