

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Acts Series

These questions are for the **July 11, 2021** sermon, "Mid-course adjustments." Please read the sermon passage (Acts 27:1-12) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

AS OUR SOVEREIGN GOD FULFILLS HIS PROMISES, BE PREPARED FOR . . .

1. The restricted liberties he might allow. (1-2)
 - a. When God restricts your freedoms, he is at work.
 - i. Paul might never have made it to Rome unless he was arrested.
 - ii. God used the arrest to get Paul exactly where he wanted him.
 - b. Don't despise the afflictions that God allows and uses.
2. The unexpected mercies he might provide. (3-8)
 - a. People will listen closely to your words in your time of restriction/affliction.
 - b. People will observe your character closely in your time of restriction/affliction.
 - c. God often provides extra freedoms for those who reflect Jesus in word and deed.
3. The threatening circumstances he might permit. (9-10)
 - a. Paul faced unexpected and unwanted changes.
 - i. He was traveling to an important trial before Caesar.
 - ii. He was traveling in life-threatening conditions.
 - b. God can use unexpected and unwanted changes in kingdom-advancing ways.
4. The disregarded opinions he might employ. (11-12)
 - a. Paul expressed his opinions, but they were disregarded.
 - b. When you do not have the authority, submit to those who do.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: The religious system and government was so frustrating! But Paul continued to respect and work within them. In what ways have you experienced real restrictions lately? How are you limited? In what way are you no longer doing what you once did? In what way has something been taken from you? In what way can you be faithful?
2. Based on #2, above: Paul experienced opportunities that other prisoners did not because of his birth place, his wise words and Christlike character. In what ways has God used your nationality, family reputation, your words and your character to bless you? How can you use these opportunities to proclaim the Good News about Jesus?
3. Based on #3, above: When it rains, it pours. Paul faced arrest, detainment, unfounded accusations and now his voyage to Rome was "against the wind" and into dangerous weather. Paul was in the center of God's will, but everything seemed to be going against him. Why are "peace" and comfort poor signs and often absent when we are in the middle of God's will?
4. Based on #4, above: No one likes an "I told you so." Especially your spouse or adult kids. Paul expressed an opinion which was disregarded (and Paul had to submit to the outcome of the decision). Are you humble in submitting to others who have been given authority? Are you kind, or quick to point out all the ways you were right? What can we learn from Paul? Discuss this: when someone else is given authority, then bad outcomes are in God's hands.