

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Acts Series

These questions are for the **July 25, 2021** sermon, “An Unexpected Opportunity.” Please read the sermon passage (Acts 27:27-38) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

AS WE HOLD OUT THE HOPE OF GOD’S WORD WHEN THE STORMS OF LIFE RAGE ON, WE SHOULD . . .

1. Expect that some will turn to alternative rescue plans. (27-32)
 - a. The sailors on board Paul’s ship were interested in saving themselves.
 - i. They felt that they had waited long enough, rejecting God’s plan.
 - ii. They felt that they were close enough to the shore to save themselves.
 - b. The world around us has one goal: reduce troubles and save your own skin.
 - c. Paul was committed to God’s revealed plan (27:22-26).
 - i. God’s rescue plan required the skills of the (unbelieving) sailors.
 - ii. While we do not have a personal promise that our situation will end positively, God has provided promises to hold on to in our storms.
 1. “All authority belongs to Me.” (Matt 28:18)
 2. “I will be with you always.” (Matt 28:20)
 3. “I am going to prepare a place for you.” (John 14:1-3)
2. Encourage everyone that a full rescue is on the way. (33-38)
 - a. Paul encouraged “everyone.” This includes Julius (friends) and the sailors (enemies).
 - b. They needed physical strength for the challenges of the rescue.
 - c. All of the 276 people in the storm with Paul (believers and unbelievers) heard him . . .
 - i. “The weather is bad, and we should not sail.” (God gives credibility, 10)
 - ii. “The God I belong to has promised that we will all survive this storm.” (23-26)
 - iii. In the midst of the storm, with the outcome still to come, Paul thanks God—he gives thanks—for daily bread. (35)

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: We live in a world that is full of alternative rescue plans. People want ease, comfort, money, pleasure or simply to suppress the idea that God rules. In what way is your heart tempted toward an alternative rescue plan?
2. Based on #1, above: While we do not have personal promises about an immediate outcome, we do have ultimate promises about God’s settled and victorious reign. Which promises and instructions from God are you holding on in the midst of your storm?
3. Based on #2, above: God brought the storm so that “everyone” in Paul’s storm would hear a clear testimony that the living God reigns (whether or not they received it).
 - “Everyone” includes friends and people who have disappointed us (like the sailors). Paul *encouraged everyone* on board. In what ways are you becoming more diligent about encouraging both “friends” and “foes” that God is completely faithful?
 - While Paul’s life was altered, his dreams were dashed, his freedoms were removed, his life was threatened, and his future was bleak. Yet all the people in his storm heard him say, “Thank God for this bread.” What are your verbal messages to the people in your storm? Do they hear you giving thanks to God?