July 05 / Sunday Swimming: Freestyle

Read Acts 27:1-44 and 28:1-10



06 / Mon – When no one listens | Read Acts 27:1-12

Paul was a prisoner on his way to Rome to be tried before Caesar. This 2200 mile trip would take months. Due to delays, they were only halfway there when sea travel became dangerous. In spite of Paul's warning, it was decided to take the chance and get to a better harbor 75 miles away where they could spend the winter. Have you ever been in a similar situation, seeing disaster ahead but no one listens to you? How do you find peace when that happens?

07 / Tue - When you've done all you can | Read Acts 27:13-26

Instead of finding a safe haven for the winter, a storm of hurricane force overtook them and drove the ship 600 miles off course. Look at the drastic measures that were taken to save the ship. After 14 days, they lost all hope they would ever survive. What changed all that? Have you ever been in trouble but God spoke peace to your heart and you knew it was going to be okay?

08 / Wed - Where is your confidence? | Read Acts 27:22-25 / Isaiah 55:9-11

How could Paul be so sure they would be saved? Two important reasons. First, Paul knew God because he had prayed and listened for a long time. He had read the Jewish scriptures and was familiar with God's character and His thoughts revealed there. Second, Paul knew his mission was not yet finished. God's plans for you will *not* be thwarted, even when others make mistakes that change the course of your life. God has the power and the means to fulfill all He intends for your good. Will you choose to believe that?

09 / Thu - Through | Read <u>Acts 27:27-32</u>

For some of the sailors, it made much more sense to jump in the lifeboat. Sure, it wouldn't hold everyone but at least some of them would survive. When you panic, it can be easy to focus on self-preservation but God has a better way. When life gets dark and dangerous, will you stick with the plan? It is God who takes His people *through* to the other side when they obey Him.

10 / Fri - Not just about me | Read Acts 27:33-44

Notice there were 276 souls on that ship...included a large crew, a group of prisoners with their military escorts, and unnamed passengers traveling for other reasons. Who would have guessed that they'd all survive the disaster? Could that be what Paul asked God for when he prayed? (see verses 24, 44.) If you are going through a storm in your life right now, are others being affected also? When praying for your own deliverance, don't forget those in the boat with you.

11 / Sat - Some detours are good | Read Acts 28:1-10

Paul's ship was blown off course to a place they never intended to go. But see what God did while they were there? Yes, Paul did eventually make it to Rome as God said he would. But because of their unexpected detour, many heard the good news of the gospel who may not have otherwise. Take heart when your life goes a different direction than you planned. There might be surprises along the way, but God is still in charge and will get you safely to your destination.

