

Sermon Date: March 30, 2014  
The Analogous Journey to Rome – Acts 27:1-12  
Doug McBride

Read Acts 27:1-12

1. Paul is finally granted his wish and the LORD's call to go to Rome (Acts 19:11, 23:11). He is set to engage on a dangerous journey by treacherous sea. As you have set about responding to God's call or doing His will, what obstacles and difficulties have gotten in the way?
  
2. Doug made some very astute observations. See below and comment on how these have personal application:
  - a. Paul's journey to Rome is not generally acknowledged as an official missionary trip, yet in many ways it is: Though he did not plan the details of the trip, this is yet another opportunity for Paul to share the gospel and spread the faith in Jesus to outermost regions. This IS a missionary journey. "For Paul every day is a mission to stamp out darkness and the forces of chaos, and to partner with God in turning the chair upright." In that same vein our own mission field may be in our jobs, social lives, or neighborhoods. Paul always had an audience. We too always have an audience. *Where has God called you as a missionary?*
  
  - b. "There is a deep **mutual trust** that Paul has to have in God **and** that God has to have with Paul." Similarly, whether we feel it or not, God has trust in us. Even when you don't feel trustworthy, God trusts you.
    - How does this change your perspective about how God values you as part of the bigger picture through the love relationship He has with you?
  
    - How can this transform the way you live in the story and partner with God?
  
    - What does it look like to live this out naturally in your life without "supposed to's" or "have to's" but as a natural extension of who you are?

c. Doug points out the parallels between Jesus and Paul toward the end of their ministry:

- Jesus goes on a journey and arrives in Jerusalem – so does Paul
- Jesus was handed over to the Romans by Jewish authorities – so was Paul
- Jesus was interrogated by a Roman governor – so was Paul
- Jesus went before the Sanhedrin on trumped up charges – so was Paul
- Jesus went before a Jewish king, Herod Antipas – Paul went before Herod Agrippa

In the same vein, Doug asks us ask ourselves the following thought provoking question: “Are we able to see the parallels of Jesus in our own lives as we walk with Him?”

d. Acts is about what Jesus will continue to do and teach. Jesus literally sent His Spirit within our souls to walk to with us and to reclaim darkness for light. It will often involve sharing in the suffering of Christ.

- See Romans 5:3, 8:17-18; 2 Corinthians 1:4-6; Philippians 1:29, 1 Peter 4:13, 16, 5:9-10 and comment.
  
- Doug referenced the following verse: *“If you want to come after Me, Jesus said, you must deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Me” (Matthew 16:24). See also Matthew 16:25 “For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.”* What did Jesus mean by this? How does this personally apply to us today?

e. What does it do to your perspective to view your life daily through the following lens: “if you have believed in Jesus, the Spirit of God has been poured out into your heart”? You have no need to rely on yourself. You need to just ask God for ears to hear and eyes to see and daily live your life in the reality that you are partnering with God to reclaim darkness. What does this mean to you?

*Closing Thoughts – Personal Challenge:*

*Paul knew every single step he took he took with the risen Jesus. He never said “I” but “we” including Jesus in every aspect of his life. Every event every day small and great alike was a mission journey. And because he had this mindset, he had his eyes and ears open to the people around him - he saw opportunities. In the same way, when we see God in every aspect of our lives, we can’t help but notice the small nuances of “just okay” to the “how are you?” in every day conversation, to see these as opportunities to partner with God to put the chair up right. No day is a bad day. Rather, every day gives us an elevated view of life to see what God might do in somebody else’s life.*