

Sermon Date: April 6, 2014
The Shipwreck and Salvation – Acts 27:13-44
Doug McBride

Read Acts 27:13-44

1. How has Luke woven in themes and images of death, rescue, being saved and breaking bread into this episode?

2. What is Paul's attitude toward his shipmates, including those who are holding him as a prisoner (vv. 22-25, 34)? How does he encourage them?

3. How does Paul continue to model his trust in God in verse 35?
 - a. What do you make of Paul's ability to "give thanks in the presence of all" during this life-threatening and difficult time?

 - b. Would you or have you found it difficult to do the same when your security (emotional, physical, spiritual) is threatened?

4. Doug commented on Paul's our tendency to think Paul never struggled or questioned or wavered during such challenging situations. Looking at the life-threatening circumstances of Paul's journey in this chapter do you think Paul wrestled with God?
 - a. Does wrestling with God mean we have little or no faith? What does that look like?

 - b. Have you had times in your life when you wrestled with God?

c. See the following verses and comment on what they say about faith:

- Romans 8:24-25

- 2 Corinthians 4:17-18

- Hebrews 11:1

- Hebrews 11:13

5. Somehow we are taught or believe that once we become a Christian and have faith, everything ought to flow smoothly. What would Acts have to tell us about that?

6. The problem with hit-and-run or drive-by evangelism is that it doesn't include relationship. And Christianity is deeply relational. What do you think about this statement?

Doug left us with some challenging thoughts:

Our goal with others is relationship. It's not necessarily 'saying the right thing when we think we need to say it.' Neither is it to change someone's mind nor to convert someone to get them to think what I think or believe what I believe. It's not ego driven. It's driven by love. We know what it is to experience the richness of the faith, but we can't drive that into people who are just not interested. There is no other agenda than to live what we know, listen to the Spirit, and to love. And somehow when the difficult comes someone's way who has observed the richness of our relationship with God (which will be tremendously painful to witness) by the grace of God they may see in us what others saw in Paul, which is 'I don't get him, but he's got something.' And then we will hope that God gives us something to say. Not when we think we 'should', but when He gives us what to say when to say it. Our goal is to just listen, to experience and bathe in God's love and let that love pour onto people.