

Sermon Handout

Providential Care

Acts 27:21-44

I. God Spoke to the Apostles vv. 21-26

- a. The promise of guidance from Jesus to the 12
 - i. Luke 11:10-12 (*see* v. 1 – “unto his disciples”)
 - ii. Jn 16:12-14 (in the upper room before his betrayal)
- b. God speaks now through his Word *cf.* I Cor 13:8-11
 - i. What we say to inquirers I Peter 3:15-16 *cf.* Ps 119:11
 - ii. What we say to the opposition Tit 1:9 *cf.* Pr 26:3-5
- c. God sends a messenger to Paul for guidance aboard the ship
 - i. Paul reminds them of his warning at Fair Havens v. 21 (vv. 9-10)
 - ii. Assurance that he will complete his mission v. 24a
 - iii. That others will be preserved with him v. 24b

II. Preservation of the Whole Company vv. 27-44

- a. The attempted escape vv. 27-32
 - i. Being blown across the *Sea* of Hadria (Mediterranean) v. 27
 - ii. Nearing land – could hear waves on the rocks vv. 27b-29a
 - iii. The crew attempts to abandon ship under a subterfuge v. 30
 - iv. This time the Centurion listens to Paul vv. 31-32
- b. A sign of God’s providence vv. 33-37
 - i. Enough calm under anchor to take sustenance vv. 33-34
 - ii. Eucharistic language v. 35 *cf.* Lk 22:19; I Cor 11:23-24
 1. Note: **He** began to eat v. 35b
 2. They also took food, being of “good cheer” v. 36
 3. The number of people given v. 37 *cf.* Mt 14:19-21; 15:36-38
- c. God providentially provides a safe location vv. 38-44
 - i. St. Paul’s Bay, Malta (14 days from Crete)
 - ii. Preparations for beaching vv. 38-40
 - iii. Paul/Centurion: prisoners are spared vv. 42-43
 - iv. The ship is lost, but all lives are spared vv. 41b, 44 *cf.* v. 22

III. Lessons for the Church

- a. Faithful Christians seek no sign, but trust God and his Word.
Jn 4:46-53; Mt 16:1-4; Heb 11:1, 6
- b. God’s providential care follows his people to accomplish his purposes.