Faith, Hope, and Love Lesson 28 Apr 28 Acts 27 Travel to Rome

Q1. (Faith) Faith is something we resort to when we are in Church. It should permeate every facet of our lives. As you read through this passage of high adventure on the open seas, where do you see St. Paul’s faith coming into action?

Acts 27:10

10 “Men, I can see that this voyage will result in severe damage and heavy loss   
not only to the cargo and the ship, but also to our lives.”

Acts 27:21-25

21 When many would no longer eat, Paul stood among them and said,   
“Men, you should have taken my advice and not have set sail from Crete   
and you would have avoided this disastrous loss.

22 I urge you now to keep up your courage; not one of you will be lost, only the ship.

23 For last night an angel of the God to whom (I) belong and whom I serve stood by me

24 and said, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul. You are destined to stand before Caesar;   
and behold, for your sake, God has granted safety to all who are sailing with you.’

25 Therefore, keep up your courage, men;   
I trust in God that it will turn out as I have been told.

Acts 27:33-34

33 Until the day began to dawn, Paul kept urging all to take some food. He said, “Today is the fourteenth day that you have been waiting, going hungry and eating nothing.

34 I urge you, therefore, to take some food; it will help you survive. Not a hair of the head of anyone of you will be lost.”

Q2. (Hope) St. Paul’s hope is more than just survival. Indeed, survival means that he will end up in Rome before Caesar where he will be executed. What is St. Paul’s real hope?

Q3. (Love) The adventure on the seas put the lives of all at risk. At the same time, at also affords opportunities for escape. However, an escaped prisoner usually meant a death sentence for those responsible for them as we see indicated by the actions of the soldiers in verse 42. How was an act of love by St. Paul not take advantage of the numerous opportunities to escape; and for what other reason would he not try to escape?

Acts 27:42

42 The soldiers planned to kill the prisoners so that none might swim away and escape,

A1. St. Paul’s whole life since his conversion has been ordered toward doing the will of the Lord Jesus and maintaining a close personal relationship with Him. He is serene as he faces the perils of the sea because of the assurance from the Lord that he will stand before Caesar to deliver the Gospel message even though it means his martyrdom.

A2. My hope should be the same, to trust in the Lord and strive to develop a close personal relationship with Him so that I, too, will enjoy the promised salvation.

A3. St. Paul knows he has been called by to Lord to take the Gospel to Rome. Mere shipwreck will not deter the accomplishment of that mission. The certainty of the presence of the Lord, allows St. Paul to minister to those who are with him, including his guards, to ensure their safety and encourage them to persevere through the danger. By his example of trust in the Lord, perhaps some will come to faith.