

Acts 26-28

Questions:

For chapter 26

1. Why did Paul feel fortunate to stand before King Agrippa?
2. Contrary to Paul, Governor Festus found no sense in the claims Paul made about how Jesus changed Paul from a person persecuting Jesus to a person witnessing for Jesus (vs 4-23). What do you think? Which elements in Paul's testimony make his claims reasonable, and which elements make them unreasonable? Do you think Agrippa agrees with Paul or Festus?

For chapter 27

3. Does any gospel image come to you reading that Paul is in the same boat with other prisoners (v.1)?
4. Paul warned the centurion that it was unsafe to sail from Fair Havens because of the storm but the centurion believed those in charge of the boat that it was more reasonable to not wait there. Explain why it felt more reasonable to not wait in Fair Haven? How did Paul know it was better to wait?
5. Does any gospel image come to you reading that while the boat was being tossed in the storm Paul was "dreaming" in it (vs. 13 - 20)? Discuss the basis of Paul's encouragement to the sailors.

For chapter 28

6. From Paul's encounters on the Island of Malta, do you agree that the islanders had not heard the gospel prior to Paul's arrival there? Discuss how the storm may have contributed to the fulfillment of Jesus' calling on Paul here. What lessons can we learn for "storms" we face today?
7. The book of Acts ends with two verses, which say that Paul was allowed to proclaim the Kingdom of God in Rome for two years unopposed, and this account is in contrast with the resistance Paul faced preaching in Jerusalem, and it further brings us back to the question of whether or not Paul should have avoided preaching to the Jews as Jesus had commanded him. Do you finally think that Paul made a mistake in going back to Jerusalem? Explain.
8. Do you have any other things to highlight about these stories?