

“Between Take & Took”

Acts 28:1 – 28:15

May 8, 2016

INTRO: Last week I began by asking you...

How **WOULD** you describe your life?

Now, using the Bible as your blueprint...
How **SHOULD** your life be described?

QUESTION: How do you explain the difference between your “would” and your “should?”

ANSWER: the HEART!

Some need more: **Information.**

Some need more: **Inspection...**

Some need more: **Inspiration!**

That’s why we have:

The **Spirit of God**

The **Word of God**

The **People of God**

T/S: Today we’re going to take a closer look at the Lord’s divine design for His devoted disciples

Last week's BIG IDEA:

*The Christian life is a...
journey with Jesus!*

*Paul's journey was a microcosm of
our macro-challenge*

T/S: This week, I pray that you will embrace the grace that reveals **HOW every Christian can shrink the gap between "would" & "should" in the midst of everyday life**

How?

The ANSWER is simply... grace-gifted, all-in, *courageous & faithful obedience!*

Today's Timeless Truth:

***You can trust the Lord,
no matter what!***

REMEMBER Acts 1:8

What's YOUR personal vision?

If you don't SEE it... You won't BE it!

How committed are you to fulfilling it?

If your willing to give up... you will!

If you won't die for it, you won't live for it!

REVIEW Passage Context:

- 1. Send-off**
- 2. Ship-out**
- 3. Storm-tossed**
- 4. Ship-wrecked**
- 5. Sees-Rome**

I. Paul's "Send-Off"

¹ And when it was decided that we should sail for Italy, they delivered Paul and some other prisoners to a centurion of the Augustan Cohort named Julius.

Sojourns with Jesus are an ADVENTURE!
(always have been, always will be)

II. Paul's "Shipped-Out"

² And embarking in a ship of Adramyttium, which was about to sail to the ports along the coast of Asia, we put to sea, accompanied by Aristarchus, a Macedonian from Thessalonica.

Sojourners with Jesus see the divine in God's details!

Sojourns with Jesus are often done together in koinonia!

³ The next day we put in at Sidon. And Julius treated Paul kindly and gave him leave to go to his friends and be cared for.

Sojourners with Jesus experience the inexplicable...

Sojourns with Jesus demand high character/witness...

Sojourners with Jesus receive His care & compassion.

vv.4-10 Sojourns with Jesus will call for leadership.

Sojourns with Jesus will be physically dangerous.

v.11 Sojourners with Jesus will need to be humble/submissive.

**Sojourners with Jesus will need to have faith in the One
who is sovereign over the faith-less.**

v.12 Sojourns with Jesus will often defy logic.

Sojourns with Jesus will often put you in the minority.

Sojourners with Jesus “go” where & when He says.

T/S:

FYI...

***If you're still the captain of your ship –
if you're still calling the shots –
you haven't shipped out yet!***
(i.e.. Darien & Raymond)

III. Paul's "Storm-Tossed"

¹⁴ But soon a tempestuous wind, called the northeaster, struck down from the land.

Sojourns with Jesus are storm-laden by design.

Sojourns with Jesus are not for the faint of heart...

vv.15-17 Sojourns with Jesus often take turns for the worse.

Sojourns with Jesus may "seem" out of control...

vv.18-20 Sojourners with Jesus throw away valuable things

Sojourners with Jesus are Spirit-led...

Sojourners with Jesus don't give up...

Sojourners with Jesus are NEVER hopeless!

v.21

Sojourns with Jesus have key, pivot points...

Sojourners with Jesus exemplify Matthew 10:16.

²² Yet now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. ²³ **For this very night there stood before me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship,** ²⁴ and he said, **'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar.** And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you.'

Sojourners with Jesus are eternal encouragers.

Sojourners with Jesus get instructions from heaven.

Sojourners with Jesus have God's guarantees!

Sojourns with Jesus involve those who *belong to Him*.

Sojourns with Jesus involve those who *worship Him*.

Sojourners with Jesus overcome their fears!

Sojourners with Jesus benefit MANY others.

²⁵ So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told.

Sojourners with Jesus constantly echo encouragement.

Sojourners with Jesus savor & share God's instructions.

v.v.27-29

Sojourners with Jesus often stay in life's storms a long time.

Sojourns with Jesus are under His providential care.

³⁰ And... the sailors were seeking to escape from the ship, and had lowered the ship's boat into the sea under pretense of laying out anchors from the bow...

Sojourners with Jesus often interact with liars & scoundrels!

v.31 **Sojourns with Jesus require calling out evil & deception.**

v.32 **Sojourns with Jesus require "cutting your ropes"**

Sojourners with Jesus trust the "plan" & the Planner!

v.v.33-37 **Sojourners with Jesus are living examples of faith!**

Sojourners with Jesus exude gratitude for grace.

Sojourners with Jesus have the peace that passes...

Sojourners with Jesus inform, inspect, & inspire others!

Sojourners with Jesus stay focused & finish well.

Sojourners with Jesus prioritize God's goals!

IV. Paul's "Shipped-Wrecked"

³⁹ Now when it was day, they did not recognize the land, (**NOTE: you may not recognize where God is going to use you...**) but they noticed a bay with a beach, on which they planned if possible to run the ship ashore.... ⁴¹ But striking a reef, they ran the vessel aground. **The bow stuck and remained immovable, and the stern was being broken up by the surf.**

Sojourners with Jesus often hit hidden reefs... (Jude)

Sojourners with Jesus can temporarily "run aground"

*How many of us, like Paul's ship...
get our head "stuck" in the sand &
our back-side torn up by the storm?*

vv.42-44

Sojourners with Jesus can end up murdered & martyred.

Sojourns with Jesus can also experience miraculous favor...

Sojourns with Jesus include a “jumping off” point.

Sojourns with Jesus ALWAYS fulfill God’s promises!

T/S: So now let’s pick up where, for all practical purposes, we left of last week...

1After we were brought safely through, we then learned that the island was called Malta. **2**The native people showed us unusual kindness, for they kindled a fire and welcomed us all, because it had begun to rain and was cold. **3**When Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and put them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened on his hand. **4**When the native people saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, “No doubt this man is a murderer. Though he has escaped from the sea, Justice has not allowed him to live.” **5**He, however, shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm. **6**They were waiting for him to swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But when they had waited a long time and saw no misfortune come to him, they changed their minds and said that he was a god.

Sojourners with Jesus often get “bitten” by “snakes...”

Sojourners with Jesus see God's providence in ALL things.

Sojourners with Jesus often get pierced by people's prejudices.

Sojourners with Jesus CANNOT be stopped!

Sojourners with Jesus witness to the wonder of our God.

Sojourners with Jesus see the extremes of spiritual ignorance.

7Now in the neighborhood of that place were lands belonging to the chief man of the island, named Publius, who received us and entertained us hospitably for three days. **8**It happened that the father of Publius lay sick with fever and dysentery. And Paul visited him and prayed, and putting his hands on him healed him.

Sojourns with Jesus always involve "going" & "praying!"

9And when this had taken place, the rest of the people on the island who had diseases also came & were cured.

Sojourners w/ Jesus often see the supernatural work of God.

Sojourns with Jesus often arrest the attention of others...

Sojourners w/ Jesus often serve by pouring out the Lord's love!

10They also honored us greatly, & when we were about to sail, they put on board whatever we needed.

Sojourns with Jesus are ultimately resourced by Him.

11After three months we set sail in a ship that had wintered in the island, a ship of Alexandria, with the twin gods as a figurehead.

12Putting in at Syracuse, we stayed there for three days. **13**And from there we made a circuit and arrived at Rhegium. And after one day a south wind sprang up, and on the second day we came to Puteoli.

Sojourns with Jesus are on the Lord's timeline...

Sojourners with Jesus distinguish between gods & God.

V. Paul "Sees-Rome"

14There we found brothers and were invited to stay with them for seven days. And so we came to Rome. **15**And the brothers there, when they heard about us, came as far as the Forum of Appius and Three Taverns to meet us.

Sojourns w/ Jesus often include "family" & holy hospitality.

Sojourners with Jesus ALWAYS get to where God is going!

15b On seeing the brothers, Paul thanked God and took courage.

Sojourns with Jesus generate god-honoring gratitude!

Sojourners with Jesus strengthen faith & build courage!

CLOSE: The Christian life is an ADVENTURE...
...a true JOURNEY with JESUS...
It's kinda like...

Illustration: Ever been to a football game at half time when the band forms words or pictures in the middle of the field? They look great from up in the stands. But have you thought about what they look like from the sidelines? Pointless, confusing, apparently meaningless. We often see our hectic and challenging life from the sidelines. God sees it from the stands. As we gain perspective, we leave the sidelines and start working our way up.

***In Acts 23:11 Paul was commanded to “take”
courage for the start of the journey...***

***In Acts 28:15 Paul “thanked God” & “took”
more courage for His next Jesus journey!***

Friend... Jesus is coming to you right now. He is beckoning YOU to COME... “take courage,” and **surrender to victory in Him** so that you too can become a witness & a worshipper of the One true God...

For many of you today, you're at a fork in the road...

Trust the Lord & His Word...

Trust Paul & his passionate proof...

Trust those of us who are living the journey.

***You can trust the Lord,
no matter what!***

Let's Pray