

The Way- Prevailing wisdom is not always wise.

Sermon Notes

July 23, 2017

“That’s what you do.”

- South Africa burning their fields.
- Dragging Main Street from Pizza Hut to the park.
- Passive in propriety, but aggressive in saving a penny.

Every culture has a prevailing pattern or wisdom that is so entrenched that even when a better approach is made known it is dismissed.

Paul runs into the “That’s what you do” mindset. **Acts 27:1-12**

- Finally Paul get’s to go to Rome. (1)
 - Paul is told by Jesus he would testify in Rome as he had in Jerusalem. **Acts 23:11** *“The following night the Lord stood near Paul and said ‘Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome.’”*
 - Paul appealed his case to Caesar. **Acts 25:10-11** *“...I am now standing before Caesar’s court, where I ought to be tried. I have not done any wrong to the Jews, as you yourself know very well. If, however, I am guilty of doing anything deserving death, I do not refuse to die. But if the charges brought against me by these Jews are not true, no one has the right to hand me over to them. I appeal to Caesar.”*
- The journey had become extraordinarily difficult and long. (7-8)
- Now they were sailing at the wrong time for the seas and winds. (9)
 - Sailing during the day of Atonement which fell during September/October was considered a very difficult season to travel by sea, and sailing between November and February was impossible. BEC
- Paul’s insight, intuition, or spiritual premonition was that of danger. (10)
 - He was a veteran of three previous shipwrecks. 2 Corinthians 11:25
 - He certainly had some educated understanding of their dire situation.
 - Let’s stay at Fair Havens. We will get to Rome!
- Paul’s advice was ignored.
 - He was not the “expert”, the pilot of the ship was.
 - It was not logical to stay. Fair Havens is not a comfortable place to winter due to its exposure to the winds, plus “we are only 40 miles to Phoenix” which is a better place to winter. BEC
 - Impatience...already lost too much time.
 - Majority rules.

Paul's validation leads to his leadership. Acts 27:20-26

- "Prisoner to captain" J. Parker
- Paul's word from an angel. (23)
 - You are going to Rome.
 - Everyone on board will live.
 - Be courageous because of faith in God. (25)

Calm in the midst of the storm. Acts 27:27-44

- Panic led to a poor decision by some sailors. (30)
- Paul serves them food and prays before them. (35)
- All 276 survive.

Take aways.

1. Human patterns of "wisdom" can stand in the way of seeing wisdom offered by God.
2. Paul trusted in the guidance of God in spite of the prevailing wisdom.

Proverbs 3:5-6 *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, but in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight." NIV84*

Cling (batach בָּטַח).

Qal: To trust; be bold, secure, sure, put confidence in, hope

Hiph'il: to cause to trust; cling to tenaciously (implies extreme physical involvement), grab onto, confident, make to hope

3. Paul was calm and confident in the storm because he trusted in God's word to him—you are going to Rome.