

Paul the Missionary

Paul followed Jesus' command to spread the good news, he was very responsible and trusted God. He traveled all over doing God's work even though he ran into a lot of trouble, because being a Christian was not popular or "cool" back in those days. But Paul knew that being a Christian was the right and true way to live. He loved God and shared Jesus with everyone; he wanted everyone to know the truth that we have a heavenly Father, that Jesus died for us, and that He is coming back to take us to heaven.

God wanted Paul to be a missionary and decided Paul should go to Italy. He sent everything up for Paul to sail with prisoners under the commander of the Roman army of the Augustan Cohort named Julius. The day came when Paul had to sail the ocean. Paul boarded the ship at Adramyttium. From there the ship would sail to various ports along the coast of the provinces of Asia and Italy. The second day of the journey they arrived at Sidon where Julius was waiting for them. He treated Paul kindly and felt God's spirit. Paul wasn't scared of the long journey he had to take to become a missionary or to the people that he didn't know. Paul trusted God and knew that God would give him the words for the people he had to meet. Julius wanted Paul to go to his friends so they could meet Paul and provide him with what he needed.



From there Paul went out to sea and sailed the ocean but the winds changed and they felt that the wind was against the ship. After the ship had sailed across the open sea off Cilicia and Pamphylia, they

stopped it at Myra in Lycia. There the centurion found a ship from Alexandria sailing for Italy, and he put Paul on that ship.

Paul went out to sea again and sailed slowly for many days and arrived with difficulty at Cnidus. Because the wind prevented them from going any farther, they sailed the ship to the lee of Crete [around the south side of Crete for shelter from the northwest winds ("lee" is a nautical term)] off the shore of Salmone, but it started to rain and there was a great storm, everything got worse and much more dangerous! With difficulty they sailed along the coast of Crete and came to a place called Fair Haven, that was near the town of Lasea.

Since considerable time had passed and the trip was now very dangerous and deadly because the storm was getting stronger and wouldn't leave the area, Paul advised the men on the ship to stop the trip. Paul said, "Men, I can see the trip is going to end in disaster and great loss of our lives." But the Roman commander was more convinced by the captain of the ship and the ship's owner who said it was okay to continue to sail on the sea, than by what Paul said. So, they continued to sail and guess what happened?! A hurricane-force wind called the northeastern blew down from the island and the ship went right in the middle of the storm!



The storm blew the ship like a piece of paper (blow hard across a piece of paper you're holding lightly). The ship pitched roughly, they lost their food and all that they had was tossed into the raging water. Then the captain realized that they were off course. Paul stood up among them and said, "Men, you should have listened to me and we shouldn't have sailed! Now I advise you to keep up your courage, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only the ship will be lost. For last night, an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve came to me and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul! You must stand before Caesar, and God has graciously given you the safety of all who are sailing with you.' Therefore keep up your courage,

men, for I have faith in God that it will be just as I have been told. But we must get the ship to a nearby island."



Everyone who was on the ship agreed that from now on they would listen to Paul, because God was with him, he was God's missionary. Paul was not afraid, he trusted God and obeyed Him. God guided Paul and everyone arrived safely to shore. Paul's life as a missionary is full of wonderful stories. Paul lived and walked with God in his heart and mind. He trusted God and served Him as a missionary and was able to live a powerfully amazing life for His glory.



(Paraphrased from Acts 27:1-44)

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