

Representing Jesus in Difficulties

As we've seen over the past several weeks, Paul's journey had been anything but easy. He suffered greatly because he preached that Jesus was the Christ who had been crucified and raised from the dead. He endured angry crowds, false accusations, imprisonment, trials, and interrogations. Paul suffered specifically because he was a disciple of Jesus. But today's passage tells us that Paul also experienced the types of suffering common to humanity. Specifically, he experienced a violent storm at sea as well as being bitten by a snake. In both cases Paul represented Jesus very, very well. Paul had **learned** through experience how to be a disciple in every circumstance.

Read Acts 27:1-28:16

1. In light of the fact that God wanted Paul to get to Rome, why do you think God allowed the events of 27:1-28:9 to happen?
2. How does God use Paul, the prisoner, in this situation?
3. After being in jail in Caesarea for the past two years, why would Paul need to hear the promise of 23:11 repeated (v. 24)?
4. How would your estimation of Paul have changed during the two weeks of the storm as you observed him?
5. What attributes of Paul are revealed through the crisis that they experience on this trip?
6. Why do you think God did not intervene in the storm, but did intervene when Paul was bitten by a snake?
7. How do you see God using Paul amid these difficult circumstances?
8. What "storms" of life right now do you need to trust God with?
9. Read Deuteronomy 6:6-7. How can you represent Jesus "on the way" amid your sufferings?