

March 3/4, 2007

Study Questions
The Unstoppable Church
The Storm is Part of the Calling
Acts 27:1-44
Pastor Bryan Clark

Opening Discussion

1. How does a believer determine God's will?

Are circumstances a good reading as to whether you are or are not in God's will? Why or why not?

2. How can believers determine if God is pleased with them?

Are health, wealth and prosperity evidences of God's favor? Why or why not?

3. Is the presence of God in our lives as believers likely to be more evident to others around us in peaceful times or in the midst of the storm? What are the implications of this given our understanding of the mission God has given us?

Bible Study

1. Read II Corinthians 11:23-29. In terms of circumstances, what has defined the life and mission of Paul since his conversion?

Would we conclude that these circumstances were evidence Paul was out of God's will or simply part of his calling? Why?

2. Read Acts 27:1-44. From our point of view it might seem reasonable to expect that God would pave the way for Paul to get to Rome as quickly and as safely as possible given the significance of his mission to share the Gospel with the Emperor. Yet, his voyage is anything but smooth. Identify every word or description in the narrative that would seem to indicate this voyage was a struggle.

3. In most cases Paul's struggles were by the hands of those opposed to the Gospel he proclaimed. However, in this narrative the struggles are really a result of factors only God could control. What do we learn from this?

Are struggles and storms simply challenges we must endure living in a fallen world or are some of them actually strategically created or allowed by God in order to accomplish the mission we've been given?

4. How might our perspective change regarding storms in our lives if we view them as part of our calling rather than as barriers to fulfilling our calling?
5. In what practical ways does Paul model faith in the midst of the storm?

What do we learn from this?

What must people see in our lives in the midst of the storms if they are going to be convinced we truly believe what we say we believe?

Application

1. Identify three key truths you learned from this text.

How might these truths help you respond rightly in the midst of your storms?

2. How can each person in your LifeGroup support one another when going through storms?

What can be done to make sure we don't lose our perspective that the storms might actually be part of our calling rather than a barrier to fulfilling our calling?

3. Is anyone going through a storm right now? Pray God's purposes will be accomplished through the storm. Pray for God's peace and assurance in the midst of the storm.