

THE BOOK OF ACTS

ACTS 27:28-44 | LESSON SUMMARY

Shipwrecked

ACTS 27:28, "So they took a sounding and found twenty fathoms. A little farther on they took a sounding again and found fifteen fathoms." (ESV)

- The crew had given up hope—then Paul prophesied their safety
 - The crew realizes the water is getting more shallow
 - 15 fathoms = 27 meters
 - Depending on the size of the ship they were on, any more shallow and they would risk sheering the hull

ACTS 27:30, "And as 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..." (ESV)

- The skiff that had been secured in the storm now provides a potential getaway for the scared sailors
 - Paul knows they need the sailor's help and expertise
 - He also may believe that God's promise of safety requires they all stay together



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- “Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, “Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved.” (27:31)

- The soldiers now clearly trust Paul
- They cut away the skiff—no one gets off until everyone gets off

ACTS 27:33, “As day was about to dawn, Paul urged them all to take some food, saying, ‘Today is the fourteenth day that you have continued in suspense and without food, having taken nothing.’” (ESV)

- Here we are provided further description as to how frightened and possibly seasick this group truly is

- Two weeks unable to eat
- This provides an opportunity to witness once again
 - “And when he had said these things, he took bread, and giving thanks to God in the presence of all he broke it and began to eat.” (ESV)
 - This is the second instance where they “pray” (verse 29)
- They continue to lighten the ship

ACTS 27:39, “...they did not recognize the land, but they noticed a bay with a beach, on which they planned if possible to run the ship ashore.” (ESV)



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- These men continue to try to avoid wrecking: lightening the ship, anchoring, etc.
- They attempt to land on the beach
 - "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." (27:41)
 - They've officially crashed into land

ACTS 27:42, "The soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners, lest any should swim away and escape." (ESV)

- The centurion intervenes, not on behalf of the prisoners, but for Paul

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: Edward D. Andrews, *Archeology and the New Testament*, Kelly Leslie, *Philosophers, Jews and Christians in the Roman Empire: authority, text and tradition*, F.F. Bruce, *The Book of Acts*

