

The Journey
Acts 27:1-28:10

I. Intro

- A. Ancient Philosopher stated: a journey begins with a single step.
- B. The journey is a vital element in our life of faith.
- C. A Step of Faith begins a journey of millions of future steps.
- D. The challenge for some of us is to remember the journey in just as significant as the goal.
- E. To be goal oriented is to reach the objective no matter the journey.
- F. To be journey oriented is to take every purposeful step in the journey with the goal in mind.
- G. Considering the journey as a means to the completion of the goal will allow us to find joy in the process.
- H. Route 66 illustration
 - 1. Chicago to Los Angeles
 - 2. 2,448 miles before modern highway systems took some of those miles away.
 - 3. This trip will take you about 52 hours of drive time, but to explore and enjoy the journey would take more than 2 weeks.
 - 4. Now, the route could be completed in 28 hours and 2016 miles.
 - 5. If the destination is all that matters, there is a way that takes less time.
 - 6. But, if the journey is important, you could linger and learn for a month on a road trip through America.
 - 7. There was a time when the journey was as much of the adventure as arriving at the destination.
 - 8. In the movie Cars: Sally (blue Porsche 911) liked to say ... "Those were the days we traveled to have a great time, not to make great time"!
- I. The Spiritual journey we are on is part of a beautiful process of sanctification that should be enjoyed along the way.
- J. Remember Proverbs 3:5-6: 5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

II. Text

- A. Challenges along the way:
 - 1. Paul a prisoner
 - 2. Lack of Wind at Sea: 27:4
 - 3. Storm at Sea: 27:14
 - 4. Hunger: 27:21
 - 5. Attempted Abandonment: 27:30
 - 6. Shipwreck: 27:41
 - 7. Snakebite: 28:3
- B. Blessings along the way:
 - 1. Paul giving a testimony of faithfulness
 - 2. God allowing time for relationships
 - 3. The test of the storm allowed for Paul to speak and lead for God's glory
 - 4. Fulfillment of a promise, immediate
 - 5. God's plan declared and fulfilled
 - 6. All were saved
 - 7. God's power shown through physical impossibilities

III. Points

- A. The Journey will be a challenge
 - 1. On Paul's physical journey:
 - a) Mean people
 - b) Bad people

- c) Religious people
- d) Spiritual people
- 2. On Paul's spiritual journey:
 - a) Sin from others
 - b) God's directive
 - c) Faithfulness
 - d) Hope
- 3. Your journey may have all of these things, and it may have more
- 4. Don't give up in the challenge!
- 5. Matthew 11:30: Jesus says, "For my yoke is easy, my burden is light."
- B. The Journey will have blessing
 - 1. The blessing of God was there in the midst of the trial.
 - 2. Blessings:
 - a) God provided direction
 - b) God provided encouragement
 - c) God provided opportunity
 - d) God provided people to share in the journey.
 - 3. When you are clear in God's directive, it is a joy to follow His direction.
 - 4. The blessings were mixed with extreme difficulties, BUT GOD was always faithful.
 - 5. I'm sure Paul didn't see the blessing while he was enduring the trial, but He showed us the importance of journeying well.
 - 6. 2 Timothy 4:6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. 7I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.
- C. The Journey will have purpose
 - 1. God's purpose became Paul's purpose
 - a) This is the Biblical pattern for the journey.
 - b) We get this wrong when we seek God to match our purpose.
 - 2. During the journey from the beginning of his faith walk to now, Paul had a clear understanding of God's purpose.
 - a) Speak the truth of the gospel to the gentiles
 - b) Be an instrument in the hands of the master
 - c) Be faithful in the moment
 - d) Determine faithfulness for the future
 - 3. And now, we see it come full circle, as Paul did, other times we see only a piece.
 - a) Don't get shipwrecked by not seeing or knowing the entire plan of God
 - b) Rest in the fact that you will not usually know His entire plan, but trust in Him anyway.
 - c) If there were no unknowns, there would be no faith journey.

IV. Close

Proverbs 3:5-6

5

Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.

6

In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.