

Remnant Life Church  
August 17, 2014

**“Lessons by Paul:  
Faith in the Time of Crisis  
Part 1”  
Acts 27:21-25**

- For most people the intensity of life is divided into just two categories:
  1. Times of calm
  2. Times of crisis
- The quality of our lives is also impacted by these same two categories but it is how we deal with those times, especially the times of crisis, that identifies the true measure of who we are.
- This is, I believe, especially true for Christians
- We have said before – why would someone want to become a Christian if, when there are difficult times, we respond no different than anyone else and in some cases much worse?
  1. We are promised...
    - God is always with us (**Math. 28:20**)
    - That He will provide for our needs (**Phil. 4:19**)
    - That His peace abounds for our lives (**John 14:27**)
  2. We were not promised...
    - Lives without hardship (**James 1:2**)
    - An easy solution to every problem (**Phil. 2:12**)
    - Times without trouble and conflict (**I Thess. 1:3**)
- For us here this morning what is it that defines joy and contentment in our lives?
  1. Is it for us, as it is for the vast majority of people, the simple, mindless, continual acquisition of things?
  2. Is it the absence of conflict and a life of comfort?
  3. Is it a perpetual ease of moving from one day, one event, one experience to another with as little anxiety as possible?
  4. In other words – never having to deal with a crisis situation?
- The difficult truth of reality is that we all, at one time or another, must face a time of crisis. Most people more than once.
- People deal with crisis situations in many ways:
  1. Paralyzed and non-functional (“They don’t handle things like this very well”)
  2. Energized but rarely constructive

3. Angry and filled with rage
  4. Disbelief leading to denial
  5. Resolve leading to action
- Is it possible to prepare for crisis?
  - In this segment of the series we will look at the first three ways that Paul dealt with crisis but what we discover is the importance of being prepared for them – because they are inevitable.
  - Definition of crisis: *A difficult or dangerous situation that needs serious attention*
    1. But now consider the complete definition...
      - Medical terms: the turning point for worse or for better in an acute disease or fever
      - Literary terms: the decisive moment of the story
      - Broad terms: a situation that has reached a critical point
    2. None of these state an absolute demise of the circumstances yet we will only ever refer to them in that way
  - *Crisis is the point of time that a decision must be made; an action must be taken; a course of action must be determined*
  - Paul prepared himself for the inevitable – consider these 3:
    1. He was prepared to pay any price to follow God's will for His life
      - Our first step is to honestly examine our lives to determine if God's will is what we hold as most important
      - Paul said in **Acts 20:24** -...*I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me...*
    2. He would not be put off by people telling him that he could not do something or even that danger was eminent.
      - Noah in Genesis was more than likely told by more than one neighbor that with rain only falling 8 months out of the year and that monthly average rainfall being about 1" – he didn't need to build the largest vessel of its day to ever float
      - People that care about you might even try and change your actions – Paul was told by his friends not to go to Jerusalem (**Acts 21**) but nothing was going to keep him from fulfilling the call of his life to spread the word about God's love
      - If God's will is most important to us then nothing will push us off course
      - What are you willing to do to serve God? To make things right in your life? To accomplish what God has called you to be?

3. Paul would take the circumstances that were difficult and turn them into opportunities to serve God...in spite of the situation
  - A crisis can turn one direction or another
  - The determining factor is how we face the situation
  - **Read Acts 16:16-40**
  - Paul and Silas did not receive encouragement they gave it
  - Your attitude, the way you respond to what is happening and even to others will determine which way your crisis goes
  
- *In everything of Paul's life he trusted God*
  
- **Eph 3:20-21** *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!*
  1. Paul is writing this letter from prison
  2. He knew that God was not bound by our circumstances
  3. Even in the time of crisis Paul gave glory to God

In the next several weeks we will continue to examine the ways that Paul dealt with crisis situations that would allow him to praise God and never allow his faith to be shaken.

**You can live that same way in any circumstance.**