



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

## Leadership Series: Trust (Acts 27)

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**Greetings:** *We are doing a series of mini studies on leadership. These Bible studies will be brief and shaped for discussion. The format seems appropriate for our 30 minute studies in the Governor's office and in small group meetings around Kansas.*

### INTRODUCTION

What motivates people to follow one called a leader? Most of you would follow someone whose life and character moves you to trust them. Leadership may be simply defined as “influence”<sup>1</sup>. The world's style of leadership is fraught with threats and rewards, using external pressure and coercion: This is simply exploitation. These leaders have a high turnover of followers as many see through the cover. Jesus touched people from the inside, by appealing to the heart. Please reflect on some of those whom you followed and consider what attracted you.

### THE ULTIMATE TRUST IS IN GOD

*Job 13:15a “Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him...”<sup>2</sup>*

Job was an Old Testament saint who lost his home, herds, and health in a matter of hours. Yet he trusted God with all that remained, his very life and soul. Earthly leaders should not demand ultimate trust because none can guarantee life nor salvation and eternal life (Luke 24:43).

### WE CAN EARN TRUST

*Acts 27:3 The next day we landed at Sidon; and Julius, in kindness to Paul, allowed him to go to his friends so they might provide for his needs.<sup>3</sup>*

The Apostle Paul had been accused of causing unrest in the Roman colonies by his preaching. He was tried before two governors (Felix and Festus) and then before King Herod Agrippa II. The king sent Paul to Rome to stand before Emperor Nero. Julius, a Roman Centurion, took custody of Paul and found passage on a cargo ship.

Julius, the high ranking soldier, gave prisoner Paul permission to leave the ship at their first port stop. This represents significant trust after spending only one day together. Consider that Roman law required the death penalty for losing a prisoner! This trust may have been communicated to Julius through Governor Festus. In an earlier imprisonment, Governor Felix had given Paul certain liberties, commanding his guards to allow Paul's friends to visit and minister to him (Acts 24:23).

### CONCLUSION

Paul came aboard the ship as the lowest in rank. He was a prisoner! The centurion had soldiers under his authority. The captain had sailors under his command. Fourteen days later, after enduring life threatening storms at sea, they had gained enough trust in Paul to begin accepting his advice. He encouraged the two hundred seventy-six persons aboard, recommending that they eat to regain strength. He directs that none of the sailors leave the crippled ship, therefore abandoning the passengers. All those aboard learned to trust Paul.

The first principle of leadership: A leader is trustworthy! Can your supervisor, your agency head, the Governor (the citizens of Kansas) trust you to come through in difficult circumstances? What are you doing to earn the trust of those in your circle? Can God trust you with additional responsibility?

Here are some observations that could be made of Paul:

- 1). He was surrounded by devoted friends. Aristarchus and Luke risked their lives to accompany Paul for his trial before Nero, traveling on this small cargo ship.

- 2). Paul had devoted friends at each port stop. They took Paul into their homes and ministered to him.

- 3). Paul treated Julius with respect, caring for him as a person, and not stretching the trust and his liberty.

<sup>1</sup> John MacArthur, Called to Lead. (Thomas Nelson Inc.). P VI.

<sup>2</sup> The Holy Bible. New King James Version. (Thomas Nelson). 1982.

<sup>3</sup> The Holy Bible. New International Version. (Biblica). 2007.

### BIBLE STUDIES

LEADERSHIP STUDY: WEDNESDAYS 7:30 AM, GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM: 264 WEST