



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

## Leadership Series: TAKING CHARGE (Acts 27:20-44)

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*Following is another brief study in our series on leadership. We try to keep these brief and shaped for your discussion and application. The format seems appropriate for our 30 minute meetings in the Governor's office and in small group meetings around Kansas.*

### INTRODUCTION

True leadership is tested and proved in crises! Real leaders can handle stress. They can solve problems, bear burdens, find solutions, and win victories. Everyone else is merely flustered, confounded, and perplexed. Leadership is not automatically conferred by title or by rank. **Leadership is influence**, a matter of ability not position.<sup>1</sup>

### CRISES IN YOUR LIFE

*Acts 27:27-29 Now when the fourteenth night had come, as we were driven up and down in the Adriatic Sea, about midnight the sailors sensed that they were drawing near some land. And they took soundings and found it to be twenty fathoms; and when they had gone a little farther, they took soundings again and found it to be fifteen fathoms. Then, fearing lest we should run aground on the rocks, they dropped four anchors from the stern, and prayed for day to come.<sup>2</sup>*

Luke narrates the drama of being adrift fourteen days in hurricane force winds. They were lost at sea, and it seemed that they were being blown ashore somewhere. They feared certain shipwreck in the dark of night. This was a sailor's worst nightmare! How do you keep your focus when disaster, even death seems eminent?

### ESCAPING FROM THE TRIAL

*Acts 27:30 In an attempt to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea, pretending they were going to lower some anchors from the bow.<sup>3</sup>*

You are in dire trouble when the seasoned crew panics! Fleeing from the challenge is the direct opposite of leadership. Police, firefighters, and other *leaders step into the fray!* *This is your primary leadership test in any environment.*

### STICK TOGETHER

*Acts 27:31 Then Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, "Unless these men stay with the ship, you cannot be saved." So the soldiers cut the ropes that held the lifeboat and let it drift away.<sup>4</sup>*

Paul took charge! He remained calm in a disintegrating situation, pointing out the obvious. Acknowledging the chain of command, he spoke to the most appropriate person to take action. The smaller boat would not stay afloat in a storm, and the large ship would be tossed upon rocks without an experienced crew to bring it ashore. Have you seen colleagues choose a career change to avoid working through a serious challenge? We thank God for the legislators, the administrators, and staff who have stayed at their posts through our severe economic crises. We are indebted to the new legislative and executive officers who were challenged to come aboard, leading us through an economic storm.

### CONCLUSION

The centurion and the soldiers took Paul's direction without question. Yet the skiff was their only means to get from the larger ship to shore and their only lifeboat. They trusted the leadership of Paul for survival. *This epitomizes leadership at its supreme level, where people literally entrust their very lives to you. It is a life-and-death risk always stretching leaders in military, police, and related service.<sup>5</sup>* Paul also passed the compromise test. He did not flex on God's Word. Paul had announced that all would be saved (verse 22). Next he told the centurion that the fleeing sailor's (verse 31) were risking the lives of all. God is Sovereign, while humans have responsibilities. Those sailor's skills were needed. Compromise helps in human relationships, breaking log-jams in business and legislative affairs. A true leader never compromises on God's principles, God's Word. This is our highest test.

<sup>1</sup> John MacArthur, Called to Lead. (Thomas Nelson inc.). p45-46.

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

<sup>3</sup> The Holy Bible. Today's New International Version. (Biblica). 2005.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> John MacArthur, Called to Lead. (Thomas Nelson inc.). p49-50.

### BIBLE STUDIES

LEADERS/ADMINISTRATORS' STUDY: WEDNESDAYS 7:30 AM, GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM: 264 WEST

STAFF, VISITORS & THOSE WHO MISSED THE MORNING MEETING: 12 NOON: 264 WEST