



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

## Leadership Series: EMPOWERING (Acts 27:33-44)

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*Following is another brief Bible study in our series on leadership. The study is formatted for our 30 minute meetings in the Governor's office and shaped for discussion and application in small group meetings across Kansas.*

### INTRODUCTION

Acts chapter 27 provides us with an example of leadership under extraordinary conditions. The Apostle Paul is a prisoner onboard a grain ship bound for Rome. As the ship sails through the Mediterranean Sea, it is battered by hurricane force winds. After two weeks of constant terror, they are about to be tossed onto the coast of an island. Paul empowers those around him to work through a variety of challenges, demonstrating true leadership and faith in a sovereign God.

### A LEADER FOCUSES ON THE OBJECTIVE

*Acts 27:33-35 Just as day was dawning, Paul urged everyone to eat. "You have been so worried that you haven't touched food for two weeks," he said. "Please eat something now for your own good. For not a hair of your heads will perish." Then he took some bread, gave thanks to God before them all, and broke off a piece and ate it.<sup>1</sup>*

During the night, the sailors determined that the storm was blowing them toward shore. Destruction and death seemed certain. All those aboard were fixating on the pending disaster and obstacles to survival. Paul kept his focus on the objective. The crew and passengers would soon need strength to swim ashore. Notice the balance between God's sovereignty (Paul would stand before Caesar) and human responsibility (the need to swim ashore).<sup>2</sup> See Paul's spiritual lesson in the blessing of the food. This builds hope in the face of trouble, even death. As a leader, are you observant and focused?

### A LEADER EMPOWERS BY EXAMPLE

*Acts 27:36-37 Then they were all encouraged, and also took food themselves. And in all we were two hundred and seventy-six persons on the ship.<sup>3</sup>*

A leader encourages others! Paul got them to take their eyes off their fears, to start preparing for the next test. His example empowered them all. We read that a head count was taken. This enabled an accounting on shore (and verified Paul's assurance that all would survive).

### AN EFFECTIVE LEADER IS INDISPENSABLE

*Acts 27:41-44 But striking a place where two seas met, they ran the ship aground; and the prow stuck fast and remained immovable, but the stern was being broken up by the violence of the waves. And the soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners, lest any of them should swim away and escape. But the centurion, wanting to save Paul, kept them from their purpose, and commanded that those who could swim should jump overboard first and get to land, and the rest, some on boards and some on parts of the ship. And so it was that they all escaped safely to land.<sup>4</sup>*

The sailors cut loose the sea anchors, cut off the ropes that were holding the rudder straight, and hoisted the foresail in an attempt to beach the ship (verse 40). It was a miracle that they ended up on anything other than a rocky cliff or a craggy Mediterranean shoreline! It was astounding that all 276 people made it to shore. Paul's strong faith, courage and wisdom obviously made an impression on the military leader. Execution of prisoners was a common practice in such circumstances. A Roman soldier paid with his life if their prisoner escaped. God honored Paul's actions, his leadership in crises. All sailing with him were blessed.

### CONCLUSION

Are you following a pattern to effective leadership? Paul invites you to follow him as he follows Christ (Philippians 3:17, 2 Timothy 1:13). Are you a model for other young leaders (Titus 2:7)?

<sup>1</sup> The Holy Bible. New Living Translation. (Tyndale House). 2007.

<sup>2</sup> John MacArthur, Called to Lead. (Thomas Nelson inc.) p56.

<sup>3</sup> The Holy Bible. New King James Version. (Thomas Nelson). 1982

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

### 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