

The Acts of the Holy Spirit

Acts 27:1-44

Now that Paul's encounter with Agrippa is over, he's on his way to Rome again. What sorts of details does Acts provide about the means by which he goes from Caesarea to Crete?

In Acts 27:9-11, Paul provides words of warning, and a dispute arises between him and the ship's captain. What comes of that disagreement? In the account of the changing weather, what sorts of details arise here, and how does this account of sea-travel compare with earlier accounts of the same in Acts? In Acts 27:20, what theological word returns to its more general meaning, and what significance (if any) is there to that word choice?

Paul has another word from God in Acts 27:21-26. After reminding the sailors of the previous warning, what words of encouragement does he offer the people on the ship? What connection does Paul establish between his own journey and the safety of the others aboard the ship?

In Acts 27:27-32, what plot arises among some of the ship's crew? What does Paul do to counter that plot, and how does it affect the prospects of the ship's passengers and crew? When Paul comforts the crew in 27:33-38, what echo of the ministry of Jesus arises, and what theological complications arise here?

What final complications arise as the ship runs aground? In the course of this very closely narrated chapter, how do all of the details comment upon and complicate the Eucharistic gesture in 27:35?