

Katamares: Acts: 27:27-37.

### ***27:31 People Must Stay in the Ship***

### ***27:32 The Soldiers Cut Away the Ropes***

#### **Taught the Love of Wisdom.**

Chrysostom: Here the text shows that the sailors would have fled, as they did not believe [Paul's] words; but the centurion believed together with the soldiers. Therefore Paul said, "Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved." Not that their escape would have doomed the rest. He said this to stop them, so that the prophecy would not be broken. See how they, as if they were in a church, are taught the love of wisdom by Paul, who pulls them away from dangers. They did not believe Paul through providence, so that they might believe him after the experience of the facts, as happened. Homilies on the Acts of the Apostles 53.2.3

#### **Paul's Authority Brings Their Conversion.**

Ammonius: After they realized that their bad will had caused them to fall into dangers, they began to believe Paul by thinking that the appropriate words of the righteous were more effective for their salvation than the fate in danger, which has no name. In fact, if they had believed in fate, like the Gentiles, after despising the words of that pious man, they would have allowed the sailors to escape by saying, "Let them go. This has nothing to do with our salvation." But they did not speak nor act so foolishly, neither were they deceived or enticed by ignorance. Therefore, based on these facts, many must reject their opinion about fate and fortune. Catena on the Acts of the Apostles 27.31–32.4

### ***27:33 Paul Urged People to Eat***

#### **The True Knowledge of This World.**

Chrysostom: Look, just as in a church, they are instructed by Paul's true knowledge. He saved them from the midst of danger. It is part of the divine plan that Paul is disbelieved; he is to be believed only after he is tried in action. So this is what happened: he urges them to partake of nourishment again and persuades them. He himself is the first to partake, thus persuading them not only by word but also by action that the storm in no way harmed them but rather benefited their souls. Homilies on the Acts of the Apostles 53.2

### **The Work of the Condemned Just Man.**

Chrysostom: With the ship in danger and shipwreck awaiting, the prisoners were saved through Paul. Imagine what it would be like to have a holy man in a house. For many are the storms that assail us, even more fierce than those storms of nature. But God is able to forgive us, if only we obey the holy men as those in the ship did, if we do what they command. For they are not only saved but also carry the faith with them. Even if the holy man is a prisoner, he does greater things than those who are free. The centurion who was free needed his prisoner who was in chains, the skillful pilot needed him who was not a pilot, or rather, who was the true pilot. For it is not a vessel such as this that he steers but the church of the whole world (for he had learned from him who was also the master of the sea), and [Paul] does this not by the art of humankind but by the wisdom of the Spirit. In this vessel are many shipwrecks, many waves and spirits of wickedness, “conflicts on the outside, fears within.”<sup>3</sup> That is why [Paul] is the true pilot. Homilies on the Acts of the Apostles 53.<sup>4</sup>

### ***27:36 All Were Encouraged***

#### **Giving Thanks Before Eating.**

Ammonius: “He took bread, and giving thanks to God in the presence of all, he broke it and began to eat.” Since Paul saw that they had believed out of necessity and that the time was not opportune to announce Christ to them, as they were broken in spirit and uncertain, he teaches them some piety, namely, not to break bread before giving thanks to the one God, and then to eat. And he teaches us the same, and the way of celebrating Eucharist appears to be this: “We give thanks to you, God, because you deigned to allow us to live until now, without eating bread. Therefore giving glory to you, we break bread for sustenance.” Catena on the Acts of the Apostles 27.35–36.<sup>10</sup>