

“Negative to Positive”

Acts 27:39-44

Introduction

- I. At times we all will have what could be called negative experiences.
- II. Do we let the negatives define us, or do we search for opportunities to make positives?
- III. Paul is a good example of how to handle circumstances as they present themselves.

Discussion

- I. Most of us will never experience what Paul did.
 - A. Paul was shipwrecked off of Melita (Acts 27:21-44).
 - B. Then Paul gathering wood for a fire and was bitten by a snake.
 - C. Needless to say, these are negatives.
 - D. Paul could have allowed negatives to stop him from moving forward...but he did not (2 Cor. 11:20-30; Phil. 3:14-15).
 - E. We will have those who believe that the negatives are because of some “sin” in our lives (cf. Job).
- II. What did Paul do when the negatives arose?
 - A. He immediately tried to keep a positive attitude and offered encouragement (Acts 27:34-36).
 - B. Paul did not let his situation “cripple” his ability to function (Acts 27:43-28:3).
 - C. Used the opportunity to heal the father of Publius, as well as others (Acts 28:8-9).
 - D. It is hard to imagine that Paul would not take the opportunity to preach the Gospel in his three months on the island (Acts 28:11; Rom. 1:13-16; 1 Cor. 2:1-4; Mark 16:17-20).
- III. What can the church do to turn “negatives” into positives?
 - A. When we are mistreated, we do not retaliate in kind (1 Pet. 3:9-12).
 - B. We use “disasters” to reach out to our communities (Gal. 6:10).
 - C. We can help the widows and orphans to have better lives (James 1:27).
 - D. Simply loving and doing good every day!

Conclusion

- I. Negatives should not come to define who we are.
- II. We will all have negatives.
- III. What we do when the negatives arise can accomplish much good (Matt. 5:13-16).