

Acts 27:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Nevertheless the centurion believed the master and the owner of the ship, more than those things which were spoken by Paul.

Analysis

The centurion believed the master and the owner of the ship, more than those things which were spoken by Paul—A tragic choice prioritizing professional expertise over prophetic warning. The 'master' (κυβερνήτης, kybernētēs, pilot/helmsman) and 'owner' (ναύκληρος, nauklēros) had navigational authority and financial interest in continuing. Human nature defaults to credentialed experts, yet God often speaks through unexpected vessels—prisoners, fishermen, tent-makers. This verse foreshadows the costly consequences of dismissing divine wisdom for human credentials. The centurion's later respect for Paul (27:43) shows how crisis reveals true authority.

Historical Context

Centurion Julius of the Augustan cohort commanded the prisoner transport. As a Roman officer, he naturally trusted the ship's professionals over a Jewish prisoner, however respected. The owner's economic motivation was massive—grain ships were expensive vessels carrying Rome's crucial food supply from Egyptian harvests.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. In what areas of life do you trust professional credentials more than Scripture or spiritual discernment?
2. How has God used unexpected or 'uncredentialed' people to speak truth into your circumstances?

Interlinear Text

ὁ	δὲ	ἐκατόνταρχος	τῷ	κυβερνήτῃ	καὶ	τῷ
G3588	Nevertheless	the centurion	G3588	the master	and	G3588
	G1161	G1543		G2942	G2532	
ναυκλήρῳ	ἐπείθετο	μᾶλλον	ἢ	τοῖς	ὑπὸ	τοῦ
the owner of the ship	believed	more	than	G3588	by	G3588
G3490	G3982	G3123	G2228		G5259	
Παύλου	λεγομένοις					
Paul	those things which were spoken					
G3972	G3004					

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 33:4 (Parallel theme): Then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head.

Hebrews 11:7 (Faith): By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

Proverbs 27:12 (Parallel theme): A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself; but the simple pass on, and are punished.

Acts 27:21 (References Paul): But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss.

Revelation 18:17 (Parallel theme): For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off,

2 Kings 6:10 (Parallel theme): And the king of Israel sent to the place which the man of God told him and warned him of, and saved himself there, not once nor twice.