

December 12 Answers

- 1) There are several lessons we can learn from Paul's long and dangerous voyage to **Rome**. First, Luke and Aristarchus showed their love and support for Paul by **going** with him on his journey. This teaches us that true friendship demonstrates itself by a willingness to **suffer** with those we love. Second, Paul took the initiative and **warned** the centurion, the captain and the owner of the ship not to leave Fair Havens. This teaches us that we have an obligation to look out for the **safety** of others and the **security** of their possessions. Third, God didn't send an angel to Paul until all **hope** of being saved was abandoned (Acts 27:20). This teaches us that God often **waits** until all human effort has failed and nothing remains except complete dependence on Him. Fourth, Paul boldly **told** the entire ship about God's promise, and he staked his life and reputation on the truth of God's word. This shows us that true faith **believes** what God says and **trusts** His word no matter how difficult the situation. Fifth, Paul's **calm** behavior in the face of imminent death testified to God's faithfulness and gave his words a measure of authority. This teaches us that the best witness we have is how we **act** in desperate situations. Sixth, Paul patiently **endured** the hardship caused by others' poor decisions, and he refused to feel **sorry** for himself, even when he was bitten by a viper! This teaches us to "share in suffering as a good **soldier** of Christ Jesus" (2 Tim 2:3). Finally, Paul continued to seek **ministry** opportunities in spite of all he had been through. This teaches us that opportunities to share the gospel abound for those who have the **eyes** to see them.