

Fatal Rescue Attempt

Acts 27 narrates Paul's incredibly challenging and dangerous sailboat passage to Rome, on which all 276 travelers (prisoners, soldiers, sailors, ...) were put in danger of life. Packed in just 44 verses we are informed about a horrid nightmare trip of many weeks that was completely unnecessary and would have ended with untold casualties if it wasn't for the grace and intervention of God. The whole party had already had difficulties getting to Crete. So it wasn't unfounded when Paul spoke up when they were about to set sail to continue their journey from this island.

"Men, I can see that our voyage is going to be disastrous and bring great loss to ship and cargo, and to our own lives also. But the centurion, instead of listening to what Paul said, followed the advice of the pilot and of the owner of the ship." (Acts 27:10-11, NIV)

Back then Paul's warning was swiftly overruled by the expert's (ship pilot) assessment and by monetary interests (ship owner) and some might argue rightly so, cause, what did Paul know? As a tentmaker how could he question long standing maritime experience and expertise? Only because those events were recorded do we know in hindsight that Paul was proven right.

But what about today? Is it possible that Spirit-filled, God-fearing people sense danger in many respects, speak out warnings and offer good godly advice, yet are overruled or silenced by experts, specialists, authorities and capital owners who question their competence?

You don't have to be a buff to grasp that a boat that is sinking due to leakages in its hull isn't rescued by punching more holes into it. Yet this is precisely what pundits, governments and the economy's major role players try to promote and do all over the world these days. If we liken our economies to ships that are sinking because of leakages (debts = holes in our money coffers) any rescue attempt by hitting more holes (more debts) into their body is simply irrational. The current man-made financial crisis reveals unsound fiscal behavior of amazing proportions as irresponsibly mounting debts for attempted rescue missions are incurred all across the globe. Today even so called rich nations have to shoulder public debts ranging from 70% to more than 200% of their GDP! Adding corporate and private liabilities to it catapults the debt burden to such heights that it leaves on average every nation on this planet with a leakage three to four times the size of their vessel (economy)!

So its utter nonsense if governments, financial institutions, authorities, experts, the media etc. try to make us believe that these are manageable debt levels (leakages) and necessary to rescue our vital economies (vessels) from sinking. That's not sound fiscal policy, that's a fatal rescue mission!

The Bible is very clear. *"The borrower is a slave to the lender."* (Proverbs 22:7) Enslaved by debt we just don't rescue and free ourselves by increasing the slavery of debt! That's a contradiction in terms, valid for any context, be it on a private, communal, organizational, corporate or even national level. The Eurozone governments for example rubber-stamped recently the creation of an €800 billion credit pool just like that in a record couple of days. Its money taken basically from the blue skies to allow member states in danger of becoming insolvent (due to heavy overspending) to borrow more to avoid bankruptcy. Wow. So those who overspent in the past are encouraged to overspend more now to save themselves! That's hitting more holes in the already leaking ship. Its absurd.

The question is, when will we finally stop this kind of insanity and start listening to Spirit-filled believers who have been instructed by God to speak out warnings and provide godly advice in trying times like these? When will we finally start listening to the eternal I AM, who knows the beginning from the end and therefore knows what we don't know and sees what we can't see?

The rescue of Paul and the 275 others had little to do with man's intelligence, expertise, physical, political and financial power. It was simply God's doing. So how long do we want to go on like this, trying to make things happen on our own terms? When will we start to surrender and submit with our limited intellect, knowledge, power and abilities completely to Him? Isn't it about time to allow Him to overrule our human fatal rescue attempts?