

How to Keep Calm During the Corona Crisis

March 15, 2020

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Acts 27:1-2, 9–25 (NLT)

¹When the time came, we set sail for Italy. Paul and several other prisoners were placed in the custody of a Roman officer named Julius, a captain of the Imperial Regiment...We left on a ship whose home port was Adramyttium on the northwest coast of the province of Asia; it was scheduled to make several stops at ports along the coast of the province.

⁹We had lost a lot of time. The weather was becoming dangerous for sea travel because it was so late in the fall, and Paul spoke to the ship's officers about it.

¹⁰"Men," he said, "I believe there is trouble ahead if we go on—shipwreck, loss of cargo, and danger to our lives as well." ¹¹But the officer in charge of the prisoners listened more to the ship's captain and the owner than to Paul. ¹²And since Fair Havens was an exposed harbor—a poor place to spend the winter—most of the crew wanted to go on to Phoenix, farther up the coast of Crete, and spend the winter there. Phoenix was a good harbor with only a southwest and northwest exposure.

¹³When a light wind began blowing from the south, the sailors thought they could make it. So they pulled up anchor and sailed close to the shore of Crete. ¹⁴But the weather changed abruptly, and a wind of typhoon strength (called a "northeaster") burst across the island and blew us out to sea. ¹⁵The sailors couldn't turn the ship into the wind, so they gave up and let it run before the gale.

¹⁶We sailed along the sheltered side of a small island named Cauda, where with great difficulty we hoisted aboard the lifeboat being towed behind us. ¹⁷Then the sailors bound ropes around the hull of the ship to strengthen it. They were afraid of being driven across to the sandbars of Syrtis off the African coast, so they lowered the sea anchor to slow the ship and were driven before the wind.

¹⁸The next day, as gale-force winds continued to batter the ship, the crew began throwing the cargo overboard. ¹⁹The following day they even took some of the ship's gear and threw it overboard. ²⁰The terrible storm raged for many days, blotting out the sun and the stars, until at last all hope was gone.

²¹No one had eaten for a long time. Finally, Paul called the crew together and said, "Men, you should have listened to me in the first place and not left Crete. You would have avoided all this damage and loss. ²²But take courage! None of you will lose your lives, even though the ship will go down. ²³For last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me, ²⁴and he said, 'Don't be afraid, Paul, for you will surely stand trial before Caesar! What's more, God in his goodness has granted safety to everyone sailing with you.' ²⁵So take courage! For I believe God. It will be just as he said.

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WHY WE EXPERIENCE STORMS

1. WE LISTEN TO THE WRONG "EXPERTS."

“But the officer in charge of the prisoners listened more to the ship’s captain and the owner than to Paul.” (Acts 27:11, NLT)

2. WE DO WHAT’S **EXPECTED**.

“...the majority decided that we should sail on...” (Acts 27:12, NIV)

3. WE RELY ON THE **EXTERNAL**.

“When a gentle wind from the south started blowing, the men thought it was a good time to do what they had planned...” (Acts 27:13, CEV)

HOW STORMS TEND TO AFFECT OUR LIVES

1. STORMS CAN CAUSE US TO **DRIFT**.

“The sailors couldn’t turn the ship into the wind, so they gave up and let it run before the gale.” (Acts 27:15, NLT)

“...We couldn’t do anything, so we were carried along by the wind.” (Acts 27:15, GW)

2. STORMS CAN CAUSE US TO **DISCARD**.

“The next day, as gale-force winds continued to batter the ship, the crew began throwing the cargo overboard. The following day they even took some of the ship’s gear and threw it overboard.” (Acts 27:18–19, NLT)

3. STORMS CAN CAUSE US TO **DESPAIR**.

“The terrible storm raged for many days, blotting out the sun and the stars, until at last all hope was gone.” (Acts 27:20, NLT)

WHAT TO HOLD ONTO IN A STORM

In the midst of the storm, we cling to 3 anchors...

⚓ THE **PRESENCE** OF GOD.

“For last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me,” (Acts 27:23, NLT)

*Storms cannot **DEFEAT** God’s presence.*

⚓ THE **PURPOSE** OF GOD.

“and he said, ‘Don’t be afraid, Paul, for you will surely stand trial before Caesar...’” (Acts 27:24, NLT)

*Storms cannot **DETER** God’s purpose.*

⚓ **THE PROMISE OF GOD.**

“So take courage! For I believe God. It will be just as he said.” (Acts 27:25, NLT)

*Storms cannot **DESTROY** God’s promise.*

ACTION STEPS

1. REMEMBER, BE STILL AND KNOW THAT HE IS GOD (Psalm 46:10).
2. REPLACE YOUR FEAR WITH FAITH (Hebrews 11:27).
3. REACH OUT TO THOSE WHO ARE FEARFUL (Isaiah 35:4).