

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THOSE WHO FOLLOW GOD

(Acts 27:27-44)

Introduction:

I. FOLLOW GOD WHEN FEAR IS PRESENT

²⁷ But when the fourteenth night came, as we were being driven about in the Adriatic Sea, about midnight the sailors *began* to surmise that they were approaching some land. ²⁸ They took soundings and found *it to be* twenty fathoms; and a little farther on they took another sounding and found *it to be* fifteen fathoms. ²⁹ Fearing that we might run aground somewhere on the rocks, they cast four anchors from the stern and wished for daybreak. ³⁰ But as the sailors were trying to escape from the ship and had let down the *ship's* boat into the sea, on the pretense of intending to lay out anchors from the bow, ³¹ Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, "Unless these men remain in the ship, you yourselves cannot be saved." ³² Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the *ship's* boat and let it fall away.

II. FOLLOW GOD WHEN REFRESHMENT IS NEEDED

³³ Until the day was about to dawn, Paul was encouraging them all to take some food, saying, "Today is the fourteenth day that you have been constantly watching and going without eating, having taken nothing. ³⁴ "Therefore I encourage you to take some food, for this is for your preservation, for not a hair from the head of any of you will perish." ³⁵ Having said this, he took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of all, and he broke it and began to eat. ³⁶ All of them were encouraged and they themselves also took food. ³⁷ All of us in the ship were two hundred and seventy-six persons. ³⁸ When they had eaten enough, they *began* to lighten the ship by throwing out the wheat into the sea.

III. FOLLOW GOD WHEN FAITH IS CHALLENGED

³⁹ When day came, they could not recognize the land; but they did observe a bay with a beach, and they resolved to drive the ship onto it if they could. ⁴⁰ And casting off the anchors, they left them in the sea while at the same time they were loosening the ropes of the rudders; and hoisting the foresail to the wind, they were heading for the beach. ⁴¹ But striking a reef where two seas met, they ran the vessel aground; and the prow stuck fast and remained immovable, but the stern *began* to be broken up by the force *of the waves*. ⁴² The soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners, so that none *of them* would swim away and escape; ⁴³ but the centurion, wanting to bring Paul safely through, kept them from their intention, and commanded that those who could swim should jump overboard first and get to land, ^{44a} and the rest *should follow*, some on planks, and others on various things from the ship.

CONCLUSION: ^{44b} And so it happened that they all were brought safely to land.