

LIVING THE LIFE
Part 4: Life in the Storm

Objective: To help us see that God is at work for others, even when our plans fall apart.

Paul decided to go to Jerusalem, passing through Macedonia and Achaia. “After I have been there,” he said, “I must visit Rome also.”

Acts 19:21

The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along.

Acts 27:15

‘Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.’ 25 So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. 26 Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island.”

Acts 27:24-26

Paul gathered a pile of brushwood and, as he put it on the fire, a viper, driven out by the heat, fastened itself on his hand.

Acts 28:3

There was an estate nearby that belonged to Publius, the chief official of the island. He welcomed us to his home and showed us generous hospitality for three days. 8 His father was sick in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him and, after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him. 9 When this had happened, the rest of the sick on the island came and were cured.

Acts 28:7-9

- Why do you think most people become so upset, frustrated or discouraged when their plans get disrupted? When your plans get interrupted, what is your “go to” response?
- When you feel overwhelmed by life, do you push back or have you found a way to “give way to it?” If you’ve figured out a way to go with it, what does that look like? How does your response impact others around you?
- Sometimes when our plans fail, it feels as though God doesn’t care. The pastor said, ‘You’re plans are not God’s priority. People are God’s priority.’ How do you feel about that idea?
- We’ve all had plans that fell through. Sometimes they’re small and it doesn’t really matter, other times they are major disruptions to our lives (divorce, getting laid off, a scary medical diagnosis). If our plans are not God’s priority, but people are, how does that change the way you handle major interruptions in your life?

Consider this week:

- Rather than get angry or discouraged when your plans fail, look for opportunities to serve others in the midst of your storm.

Final thought:

When your plans get interrupted, God may be setting you up to minister to someone in need of His love.

