

Acts 27 The Gospel in the Gale
9/21/25 Calvary Chapel Titusville
Pastor Paul Andris

"Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He [is] the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you." (Deuteronomy 31:6 NKJV)

God's sovereignty is not fragile.

And when it was decided that we should sail to Italy, they delivered Paul and some other prisoners to [one] named Julius, a centurion of the Augustan Regiment. So, entering a ship of Adramyttium, we put to sea, meaning to sail along the coasts of Asia. Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, was with us. (Acts 27:1-2 NKJV)

God is moving the mission forward.

"When a man's ways please the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him." (Proverbs 16:7, NKJV)

The Aroma of Christ Gains Credibility.

And the next [day] we landed at Sidon. And Julius treated Paul kindly and gave [him] liberty to go to his friends and receive care. (Acts 27:3 NKJV)

Before people trust our God, they'll notice our life.

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16 NKJV)

Is my life opening doors for the gospel?

When we had put to sea from there, we sailed under [the shelter of] Cyprus, because the winds were contrary. And when we had sailed over the sea which is off Cilicia and Pamphylia, we came to Myra, [a city] of Lycia. There the centurion found an Alexandrian ship sailing to Italy, and he put us on board. When we had sailed slowly many days, and arrived with difficulty off Cnidus, the wind not permitting us to proceed, we sailed under [the shelter of] Crete off Salmone. (Acts 27:4-7 NKJV)

Use wisdom; don't worship it.

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6 NKJV)

When Expertise Outvotes Obedience.

Now when much time had been spent, and sailing was now dangerous because the Fast was already over, Paul advised them, saying, "Men, I perceive that this voyage will end with disaster and much loss, not only of the cargo and ship, but also our lives." Nevertheless the centurion was more persuaded by the helmsman and the owner of the ship than by the things spoken by Paul. And because the harbor was not suitable to winter in, the majority advised to set sail from there also, if by any means they could reach Phoenix, a harbor of Crete opening toward the southwest and northwest, [and] winter [there]. (Acts 27:9-12 NKJV)

The question isn't "Is this popular?" or even "Is this profitable?" but "Is this obedient?"

"Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.'" (James 4:15, NKJV)

The Deceptive Calm.

When the south wind blew softly, supposing that they had obtained [their] desire, putting out to sea, they sailed close by Crete. (Acts 27:13 NKJV)

Don't treat circumstances as your shepherd. The Lord is your Shepherd!

When Your Skills Can't Save You.

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But not long after, a tempestuous head wind arose, called Euroclydon. So when the ship was caught, and could not head into the wind, we let [her] drive. And running under [the shelter of] an island called Clauda, we secured the skiff with difficulty. When they had taken it on board, they used cables to undergird the ship; and fearing lest they should run aground on the Syrtis [Sands], they struck sail and so were driven. (Acts 27:14-17 NKJV)

When the Lights Go Out.

And because we were exceedingly tempest-tossed, the next [day] they lightened the ship. On the third [day] we threw the ship's tackle overboard with our own hands. Now when neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest beat on [us], all hope that we would be saved was finally given up. (Acts 27:18-20 NKJV)

When you can't trace His hand, trust His character.

A Word From God in the Eye of the Storm.

But after long abstinence from food, then Paul stood in the midst of them and said, "Men, you should have listened to me, and not have sailed from Crete and incurred this disaster and loss. "And now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. "For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve, "saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you.' "Therefore take heart, men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me. "However, we must run aground on a certain island." (Acts 27:21-26 NKJV)

The mission of God is unsinkable.

Now when the fourteenth night had come, as we were driven up and down in the Adriatic [Sea], about midnight the sailors sensed that they were drawing near some land. And they took soundings and found [it] to be twenty fathoms; and when they had gone a little farther, they took soundings again and found [it] to be fifteen fathoms. Then, fearing lest we should run aground on the rocks, they dropped four anchors from the stern, and prayed for day to come. (Acts 27:27-29 NKJV)

Hold your position. Hold His word.

And as the sailors were seeking to escape from the ship, when they had let down the skiff into the sea, under pretense of putting out anchors from the prow, Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, "Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved." Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the skiff and let it fall off. (Acts 27:30-32 NKJV)

Unless Jesus tells you to step out, stay in the ship.

Grace at the Table in the Middle of a Gale.

And as day was about to dawn, Paul implored [them] all to take food, saying, "Today is the fourteenth day you have waited and continued without food, and eaten nothing. "Therefore I urge you to take nourishment, for this is for your survival, since not a hair will fall from the head of any of you." And when he had said these things, he took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of them all; and when he had broken [it] he began to eat. Then they were all encouraged, and also took food themselves. And in all we were two hundred and seventy-six persons on the ship. So when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship and threw out the wheat into the sea. (Acts 27:33-38 NKJV)

Gratitude is prophetic: it declares that God is good when nothing else is.

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"In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thessalonians 5:18, NKJV)

"Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:12–13, NKJV)

Our Plans, God's Word.

When it was day, they did not recognize the land; but they observed a bay with a beach, onto which they planned to run the ship if possible. And they let go the anchors and left [them] in the sea, meanwhile loosing the rudder ropes; and they hoisted the mainsail to the wind and made for shore. But striking a place where two seas met, they ran the ship aground; and the prow stuck fast and remained immovable, but the stern was being broken up by the violence of the waves. (Acts 27:39-41 NKJV)

Sometimes God lets the things you trust in crumble to show you the only hope is Him.

And the soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners, lest any of them should swim away and escape. But the centurion, wanting to save Paul, kept them from [their] purpose, and commanded that those who could swim should jump [overboard] first and get to land, and the rest, some on boards and some on [parts] of the ship. And so it was that they all escaped safely to land. (Acts 27:42-44 NKJV)

He uses splintered planks—fragments of what failed—to ferry you into the next season.

Faith remembers what God has said when feelings sink.

Your past pain can become present ministry.

"Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you." (1 Peter 5:7 NKJV)

Sovereignty doesn't mean you won't face storms; it means no storm can face you without first passing through God's hands.

Take heart. The storm may be fierce, but the Captain is faithful—and His promises are unsinkable.