

# ACTS 27

## Faithfulness in the storm

**9** Now when much time had been spent, and sailing was now dangerous because [a]the Fast was already over, Paul advised them, **10** 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."

Acts 27:9-10

**Play stupid games, win stupid prizes!** Sometimes the storms in our lives are caused by our own poor judgments, our own sin, or by no fault of our own. As sinful people around us make mistakes, sin, or make poor choices we are caught up in their storm. In the case of Acts 27 Paul was caught up in a storm because of a poor choice on behalf of the Romans. Similarly, the sailors in Jonah 1 were caught up in a storm because of Jonah's sin and rebellion against God's will. In each story, everybody involved had an opportunity to clearly see God's glory on display! The same is true for our own life. Each storm we walk into has an opportunity to Glorify the Lord. For Jonah, it was the calming of the storm after a bold act of obedience. Through each storm we face we can be sure of this, "...God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it." (1 Cor 10:13) Though God is faithful to show us a way out, it is still up to us to be obedient in the trial. Obedience saved the lives of the sailors in Jonah chapter 1 just like obedience saved the lives of the sailors in Acts 27. In every case when God's people face storms we have access to His Word. And His Word grants us wisdom!

## God's Word + Prior Experience = Wisdom

In the case of these sailors, they refused real wisdom, Paul's prior experience in these conditions with multiple shipwrecks further evidenced that he had heard from God on the matter and offered his council. Yet the ship's captain was sure they could make it and gambled on the 'chance' that they would make it to Phoenix. Likely his pride or confidence in his ability led to a poor decision. Regardless of human ability, nature is a force that we do not control. We have no right to speak to the storm but we know the one who does!

## Read Acts 27 together. Are there any parallels to Jonah Chapter 1? How about Mark 4:35-41?

### Discussion Questions

1. Often we find ourselves in storms because we failed to seek real wisdom. How does our pride get in the way of seeking Godly counsel?
2. It can be said that people are either in a storm, coming out of a storm, or headed into one. As you evaluate your life, which phase would you say you are in? How do you glorify God in this phase?
3. Verses 2 and 3 stress the importance of Fellowship. Who is with you during your storm? Who are you with during theirs? How can staying 'others focused' keep you from 'catastrophizing' or spiraling into depression during your storm?
4. Though Paul was a prisoner, and the captain and the centurion were both very much in charge of the voyage, Paul ended up as the one they looked to for guidance. What does this tell us about the voice of Godly Wisdom? Who is the captain of your ship?