

Intro: Even though we are in the 21st Century and we can get weather reports right on our phones, up to the minute, and as far back as a month or more out; storms can still take us by surprise. Even in today's technology and weather prediction – storms can be unpredictable. They can seem to come out of nowhere. Blind side us..... and even when we may know they're coming, sometimes the strength at which they hit may very well come as a big surprise. (how long they last)

And just as it is with physical storms; so it is with spiritual storms. Storms of life. If you've lived long enough, (and that don't have to be very long) you've come to understand that storms will come. Times of trial, times of turmoil, seasons of change – will eventually come your way. And, when they come, how hard they hit, or how long they last we can never predict.

***** **Rom 8:28-32** And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? NKJV

***** **Rom 5:3-5** And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. NKJV

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- Two types of people in a storm
 - Those who have come into a storm because of disobedience
 - Those who have come into a storm through obedience

In Ch 27 of the book of Acts we find ourselves right in the middle of Paul's journey to Rome. He's sailing by boat, it's the time of year where sailing is slowed , if not halted because of weather conditions. We've read how winds were already contrary, sailing routes had to be altered and cities they weren't planning on staying at had been docked.

Because they had been sailing so slow due to weather, they reach Fair Havens and it's here that Paul warns them in vs 10 that " Men, I perceive that this voyage will end in disaster and much loss".

Paul, a man filled with the Holy Spirit of God was discerning within himself that going forward at this time was not going to be good. But because these men were in search of a more convenient place, a more suitable place to winter at, they decided they would not listen to the man of God and head to Phoenix. A place they would never reach.

Tonight's message is entitled "The Storm". There are many things we can learn in the midst of a storm. Whether they are from disobeying the word of God or the convictions of the Holy Spirit or whether they are directly allowed by God even in your obedience.

Let's see what the Lord would teach us as we pick back up in Paul's journey to Rome and enter with him, into "The Storm"

13-38 I. IN THE STORM

13-15 A. The Beginning

The one in charge of this whole thing is the centurion. Julius. Not the owner of the ship, not the helmsmen, nor the soldiers, Paul & co. etc. ; but Julius. (See vs 6.)

When Paul told him going further at this time was not going to be good he had a choice to make.

- Julius knew Paul was innocent; man of integrity. He trusted him in Sidon
- But he listened to the majority (vs11-12) Listening to the majority many times gets us into trouble.

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This Centurion represents many, who just like him have a decision to make. To listen to the discernment and counsel of a man or woman of God; to heed the warnings of scripture and surrender to the will of God – or to follow after the majority and go for convenience or what seems suitable.

- This man decides to follow the majority and look what happens.....

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1. “When the south wind blew softly, supposing that they had obtained their desire” They put out to sea. They go out further.

- a. Things seem to go smooth! You can just hear them. “Paul was just tripping”
- b. Many times that happens right? When you step away from the will of God it don’t get bad immediately.
- c. Not always do the seeds sown in disobedience bear fruit right away. **Gal 6:7-10** Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for

whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. 9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. NKJV

- d. Sometimes there's some smooth sailing at first. Some soft winds, a gentle breeze – a bit of comfort- just enough to cause you to go out a little further.

13b 2. **"supposing they obtained their desire, putting out to sea, they sailed close to Crete"**. They went out further.

- a. Just a little bit more. Maybe God don't mind this that much. Maybe it's not that big a deal. God's giving me grace.

b. Go to Rom 6:1-14

So when we step out of the will of God or refuse the conviction of the Holy Spirit on an area of our lives, lets not confuse the soft winds and smooth sailing at first to be God's approval. Let's see that as God's grace to make it back to the Island.

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14-15 3. **"But not long after, a tempestuous had wind arose"** and the ship was caught into in and they had to let her drive.

- a. Chuck Smith wrote..... that this was hurricane season and it sounds as though they were caught in a storm of hurricane proportions, and they were helpless to do anything about it.
- b. Wouldn't that apply to sin as well? How it starts off smooth sailing and obtaining desires and you go out further? Before you

know it your in a hurricane you can almost do nothing about and
“you let her drive”

- c. Your caught up! Starts off with a little flirtation at work, no big deal. And old high school friend requests you on F.B. no big deal.

Take a little money from the register...no big deal. A few tools from work.....supplies....

A glass of wine at New Years..... a beer after work..... a 12 pack on the weekend..... Now it's a 18 pack and a bottle of Patron and the next thing you know someone offers you a little something to wake up with so you can party longer..... go to work without the hangover. And your caught up.

The Centurion had every reason to listen to Paul's warning, escape a storm but their here now , lets read.....

16-20 B. Striving

How quickly things turn from great to horrible. From smooth sailing to treacherous waters. Quite a storm. Not a normal storm either. This word “tempestuous” is where we get our word “Typhoon”. The weather conditions were so bad that it says....

- 16** **1. “running under the shelter of an Island called Clauda, we secured the skiff with difficulty”** meaning they pulled the small boat in so they wouldn't lose it.

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- 17a** 2. **They used cables o undergird the ship** This is called "Frapping".
Where they take large ropes and wrap them under the boat and
tighten them to keep the boat from tearing apart.
- 18-19** 3. They were exceedingly tempest tossed and lightened the ship (wheat)
3rd day threw the ships tackle overboard.
- 20** 4. **"When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days"** They began
to lose hope. They had no way of navigating in these troubled waters
without the help of the sun & stars.
- a. These are their instruments. That's their compass.
- b. Without knowing where they're at, which direction they're going
they begin to lose hope.
- c. That's how storms can affect us right? Things get dark. We can't
see the sun nor stars to help us navigate. (God where are you?)
How do I get out of here?
- d. Whether it be a storm we're in because of disobedience or one
we're brought threw in obedience the answer is the same.
- i. Eyes focused on Jesus
- ******* ii. **John 8:12-13** Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I
am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light
of life." NKJV

21-26 C. **Paul addresses them**

- 21** 1. **"Men you should have listened to me".....**
No one wants to hear that right? Your in the middle of a storm, you

know exactly where you went wrong the last thing you want to hear is someone pointing it out.

- a. Paul does exactly what he should've done. He has an awesome word of encouragement from here on but it was necessary to identify the problem before going further.
- b. To prevent it from happening again.

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- c. Sometimes it's necessary to receive a rebuke in a storm.
- d. Our young generation today doesn't like to be told anything.

- i. **Prov 19:20** Listen to counsel and receive instruction,

That you may be wise in your latter days. NKJV

- ii. **Prov 17:10** Rebuke is more effective for a wise man

Than a hundred blows on a fool. NKJV

- iii. **Prov 17:10** A wise person will learn more from a warning than a fool will learn from a hundred lashings. NCV

- iiii. **Prov 29:1** He who is often rebuked, and hardens his neck, Will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy. NKJV

- 2. Pauls not trying to rebuke them and leave them there wallowing in it. That's not the heart of God either.

22a

- 3. **"now I urge you to take heart"** Take courage, Why. Because see Paul has gone before the Lord and God has given him direction and encouragement. He's given him a word.

- a. Storms has a way of doing that.

22b

4. **"there will be no loss of life among you, but only the ship"** There will be some damage, but no one will lose their lives.
 - a. There's some consequences to your actions but God will still see you through.
 - b. Materialistic people may still see that as a bad deal.
5. Paul had already been told by the Lord, Be of good cheer for as you've testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome. So he knew he was going to make it, but here an angel comes to strengthen and encourage him again.
 - a. I believe because Paul once again needed it but also because of the others. **"God has granted all those who sail with you"**
 - b. Ever notice in the middle of your storm your given the words of encouragement from someone else? And your encouraged?

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25

6. **"Therefore take heart men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me"**

27-32 D. **Sailors try to escape**

Now 14 days they've been at sea, tossed to and fro, losing hope and all that.. and even though Paul had given them a word from the Lord some obviously didn't believe and decided they would jump ship.

They were taking measurements and found that they were getting closer and closer to land, but afraid that they would crash against some rocks they decided to escape the ship using the skiff. And leave everyone else behind.

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1. Paul had a word of faith and confidence from the Lord for the frightened crew and passengers. But this word only benefited those who believed it.
 - a. God has many promises of His comfort and care for us; but they only benefited us if we believe them.
 2. When Paul says **“unless these men stay on the ship, you cannot be saved”** he says that because these men are seasoned sailors. They need them to help guide the ship. “But I thought God told Paul there would be no loss of life?”
 - a. Yes and that doesn’t mean you jump ship and do it your way. Or be a fool and let seasoned sailors leave a ship we need to stay aboard.
 - b. In other words don’t test God with foolishness. (Satan) “If you are the Son of God.....cast yourself down from here...” (Jesus) “It is written You shall not tempt the Lord your God”.
 - c. It is wrong to deliberately put yourself in jeopardy. There is a balance between trusting in the Lord and taking practical measures that are necessary in a situation. **Read illust.**

33-38 E. Everyone eats and is encouraged

- 33** 1. They went 14 days with not food.
- 34** 2. Paul tells them **“this is for our survival”** no one is going to die

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- 35 3. "took bread and gave thanks, in the presence of them all"
- 36 4. "then they all were encouraged and also took food themselves"
- 38 5. "they lightened the ship and threw out the wheat into the sea"

39-44 II. SHIPWRECKED OFF OF MALTA

- 39-41 A. "When it was day"** they tried letting go the anchors, hoisting the mainsail to the wind and heading to shore but "**striking a place where two seas met**" they ran the ship aground and the ship tore apart being stuck.
- 42 B. The soldiers – still thinking of themselves trying to save their own lives they figure they should kill the prisoners in case they try to escape.**
- 1. Can't blame them for thinking this way at first. But the only reason they are alive is because of a man of God and the God he serves.**
- a. Instead of murder they should surrender give their lives over**
- b. If they were to kill anything it should be their flesh. If anything has to die at this point it's their flesh their old lives.**
- 43-44 C. The centurion does the right thing**