

Storm Ready
“Off Course but Not Out of Control”

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Acts 23:9-11 “There was a great uproar, and some of the teachers of the law who were Pharisees stood up and argued vigorously. “We find nothing wrong with this man,” they said. “What if a spirit or an angel has spoken to him?” 10 The dispute became so violent that the commander was afraid Paul would be torn to pieces by them. He ordered the troops to go down and take him away from them by force and bring him into the barracks. 11 The following night the Lord stood near Paul and said, “Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome.”

1) MY RESPONSE...

Storms must never rob me of the promises that God spoke.

Acts 27:13-15 “When a gentle south wind began to blow, they saw their opportunity; so they weighed anchor and sailed along the shore of Crete. 14 Before very long, a wind of hurricane force, called the Northeaster, swept down from the island. 15 The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along.”

- What do I do when what looked like an OPPORTUNITY is now an OBSTACLE?
- A. WHEN THINGS ARE OUT OF OUR CONTROL, THEY ARE NEVER OUT OF GOD'S CONTROL.
- B. I'M NOT NECESSARILY OUT OF GOD'S WILL WHEN I GET CAUGHT IN A STORM.
- C. I AM NOT OUT OF GOD'S CARE WHEN WE GET CAUGHT IN A STORM.

2. MY RESPONSIBILITY...

Trust God's care openly when the storms of life come.

- A. TO TRUST OPENLY IN GOD'S CARE IS NOT OPPOSED TO USING PRUDENCE AND COMMON SENSE.
- B. TO TRUST OPENLY IN GOD'S CARE IS NOT OPPOSED TO USING THE MEANS THAT GOD GIVES TO GET US OUT OF THE STORM.
- C. TO TRUST OPENLY IN GOD'S CARE MEANS THAT WE WILL BE DIFFERENT IN THE STORM THAN THOSE WHO DO NOT KNOW GOD.

Acts 27:22-26 “But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed. 23 Last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me 24 and said, ‘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.”

3) MY REMINDER...

God is sovereign over the storms of life.

- God can use what should have DESTROYED me and use it as new DESTINATION.

Acts 28:7-10 “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. 10 They honored us in many ways; and when we were ready to sail, they furnished us with the supplies we needed.”