

“The man who has experienced shipwreck shudders even at a calm sea.” Ovid

When storms come it is good to have friends.

that we would sail for Italy, they proceeded to deliver Paul and some other prisoners to a centurion of the Augustan cohort named Julius. Acts 27:1

And embarking in an Adramyttian ship, which was about to sail to the regions along the coast of Asia, we put out to sea accompanied by Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica. Acts 27:2

The next day we put in at Sidon; and Julius treated Paul with consideration and allowed him to go to his friends and receive care. Acts 27:3

When storms come don't be surprised if they happen at Fair Havens.

When we had sailed slowly for a good many days, and with difficulty had arrived off Cnidus, since the wind did not permit us to go farther, we sailed under the shelter of Crete, off Salmone; Acts 27:7

And with difficulty sailing past it we came to a place called Fair Havens, near which was the city of Lasea. Acts 27:8

Some of the most devastating storms in our lives occur in the places we least expect them.

When storms come it is important to listen to the right voices.

When considerable time had passed and the voyage was now dangerous, since even the fast was already over, Paul began to admonish them, Acts 27:9

The wrong voices are often the ones that lean on worldly experience.

Men, I perceive that the voyage will certainly be with damage and great loss, not only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our lives. But the centurion was more persuaded by the pilot and the captain of the ship than by what Paul said. Acts 27:10-11

The wrong voices are often the ones that seek a majority vote.

Because the harbor was not suitable for wintering, the majority reached a decision to put out to sea from there, if somehow they could reach Phoenix, a harbor of Crete, and spend the winter there. Acts 27:12

The wrong voices are often the ones that base things on feelings.

When a moderate south wind came up, supposing that they had attained their purpose, they weighed anchor and began sailing along Crete, close inshore. Acts 27:13

But before very long there rushed down from the land a violent wind, called Euraquilo; and when the ship was caught in it and could not face the wind, we gave way to it and let ourselves be driven along. Acts 27:14-15

Since neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small storm was assailing us, from then on all hope of our being saved was gradually abandoned. Acts 27:20

When the storms come stay in the ship.

When they had gone a long time without food, then Paul stood up in their midst and said, “Men, you ought to have followed my advice and not to have set sail from Crete and incurred this damage and loss. Acts 27: 21

Yet now I urge you to keep up your courage, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. Acts 27:22

For this very night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood before me, saying, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar; and behold, God has granted you all those who are sailing with you.’ Acts 27:23-24

Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, “Unless these men remain in the ship, you yourselves cannot be saved. Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the ship’s boat and let it fall away. Acts 27:31-32

When the storms come recognize that others are watching how we respond.

Until the day was about to dawn, Paul was encouraging them all to take some food, saying, “Today is the fourteenth day that you have been constantly watching and going without eating, having taken nothing. Acts 27:33

Therefore I encourage you to take some food, for this is for your preservation, not a hair from the head of any of you will perish. Having said this, he took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of all, and he broke it and began to eat. Acts 27:34-35

All of them were encouraged and they themselves also took food. All of us in the ship were two hundred and seventy-six persons. Acts 27:36-37

When the storms come learn to lighten the ship.

When they had eaten enough, they began to lighten the ship by throwing out the wheat into the sea. Acts 27:38

When the storms come learn to discipline yourself to look for the good in the bad.

When day came, they could not recognize the land; but they did observe a bay with a beach, and they resolved to drive the ship onto it if they could. Acts 27:39

When the storms come be sensitive to those around you.

The soldiers’ plan was to kill the prisoners, so that none of them would swim away and escape; Acts 27:42

But the centurion, wanting to bring Paul safely through, kept them from their intention, and commanded that those who could swim should jump overboard first and get to land, Acts 27:43

And the rest should follow, some on planks, and others on various things from the ship. And so it happened that they all were brought safely to land. Acts 27:44