

## Acts 27

God Dependency - we look up!

**Vs 1-8** Paul is taken to a ship that is to set sail for Rome.

- Notice in verse 1 that Luke uses the pronoun “we,” meaning he was present on this ship and gives a firsthand account of what happens.
- In verse 5 and 6, Julius (a centurion) transferred Paul and the other prisoners to another ship.

**Acts 27:6 (ESV)** *There the centurion found a ship of Alexandria sailing for Italy and put us on board.*

- *ship of Alexandria* ...A merchant ship probably carrying Egyptian grain.
- Grain ships were usually quite large, sometimes in excess of a thousand tons and over a hundred feet in length.

**Vs 9-12** *Since much time had passed, and the voyage was now dangerous because even the Fast was already over, Paul advised them, 10 saying, “Sirs, I perceive that the voyage will be with injury and much loss, not only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our lives.” 11 But the centurion paid more attention to the pilot and to the owner of the ship than to what Paul said. 12 And because the harbor was not suitable to spend the winter in, the majority decided to put out to sea from there, on the chance that somehow they could reach Phoenix, a harbor of Crete, facing both southwest and northwest, and spend the winter there.*

- The Fast refers to the Day of Atonement in the fall, when Mediterranean voyages became too dangerous for sailing vessels.
- When making decisions in life, we sometimes ignore proven, godly people’s advice and do what we want anyway. These bad decisions can bring on self-induced storms.

**Vs 13-14** *Now when the south wind blew gently, supposing that they had obtained their purpose, they weighed anchor and sailed along Crete, close to the shore. 14 But soon a tempestuous wind, called the northeaster, struck down from the land.*

- Northeasters are extremely dangerous in this region, appearing suddenly with violent, whirling winds caused by a meeting of opposite air currents.
- Relational, health-related, spiritually shriveled, financial, or tragic loss. (mind battles, sleeplessness)
- Not all storms are self-induced, but this one certainly was.

What causes self-induced storms?

- Lack of prayer. (Time, Place, Plan)
- Stubborn toward godly advice and counsel.
- Unwise decisions based on selfish ambition.
- A life of Self-sufficiency rather than God dependency.

**1 Peter 1:6 (ESV)** In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials,

- Sometimes the Lord will allow your storms (if necessary) to discipline you because He loves you and desires for you to be HOLY.

**Vs 15** *And when the ship was caught and could not face the wind, we gave way to it and were driven along. 16 Running under the lee of a small island called Cauda, we managed with difficulty to secure the ship's boat. 17 After hoisting it up, they used supports to undergird the ship. Then, fearing that they would run aground on the Syrtis, (The Syrtis was a sandy shoal off the North African coast with a reputation as the graveyard of ships.) they lowered the gear, and thus they were driven along*

- Usually our first steps of action in a storm is to fix it ourselves rather than pray.

**Psalm 57:1 (ESV)** *Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge; in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by.*

**Vs 18** *Since we were violently storm-tossed, they began the next day to jettison the cargo.*

- The ship was instable - storms make us feel the instability of a fall world we live in.
- It is in storms of life that we realize what is important. What the owner and captain were living for (money the products would give them) becomes useless when faced with what is really important.

**Vs 19-20** *And on the third day they threw the ship's tackle overboard (the long beam used to support the main sail) with their own hands. 20 When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope of our being saved was at last abandoned.*

- In the depth of any storm, whether self-induced or Job-like, there is a temptation to feel like all hope of being saved has been abandoned.

**Psalm 121:1–8 (ESV)**

- 1 *I lift up my eyes to the hills.*  
*From where does my help come?*
- 2 *My help comes from the LORD,*

*who made heaven and earth.*

3 *He will not let your foot be moved;  
he who keeps you will not slumber.*

4 *Behold, he who keeps Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.*

5 *The LORD is your keeper;  
the LORD is your shade on your right hand.*

6 *The sun shall not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.*

7 *The LORD will keep you from all evil;  
he will keep your life.*

8 *The LORD will keep  
your going out and your coming in  
from this time forth and forevermore.*

**Vs 21–26** *Since they had been without food for a long time, Paul stood up among them and said, “Men, you should have listened to me and not have set sail from Crete and incurred this injury and loss. 22 Yet now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. 23 For this very night there stood before me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship, 24 and he said, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you.’ 25 So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told. 26 But we must run aground on some island.”*

- Twice, Paul said to “take heart,” “to cheer up,” (vs 22 & 25). It is only through hearing the news of God (gospel) that we can be made courageous and have hope.
- And sometimes, you must borrow others’ faith until you have your own - vs 25

#### **Vs 27-29**

- The sailors and crew were 14 days in a trial with no food. Sometimes storms seem to last forever. But take heart, you have news from God.

**Vs 30–32** *And as the sailors were seeking to escape from the ship, and had lowered the ship’s boat into the sea under pretense of laying out anchors from the bow, 31 Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, “Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved.” 32 Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the ship’s boat and let it go.*

- Our inclination in a storm is to bail ship on the church and on the Lord. Go back to the news - believe the news and instead of throwing yourself overboard, throw way all that doesn’t matter and cut the ropes and let it go.

**Vs 33–38** As day was about to dawn, Paul urged them all to take some food, saying, “Today is the fourteenth day that you have continued in suspense and without food, having taken nothing. 34 Therefore I urge you to take some food. For it will give you strength, for not a hair is to perish from the head of any of you.” 35 And when he had said these things, he took bread, and giving thanks to God in the presence of all he broke it and began to eat. 36 Then they all were encouraged and ate some food themselves. 37 (We were in all 276 persons in the ship.) 38 And when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship, throwing out the wheat into the sea.

- We can't be strengthened in a storm by bailing ship, we can't be strengthened in a storm by trying to fix everything in our own effort - we are strengthened by the bread of life and communion is the reminder of that.

**Vs 39–44** Now when it was day, they did not recognize the land, but they noticed a bay with a beach, on which they planned if possible to run the ship ashore. 40 So they cast off the anchors and left them in the sea, at the same time loosening the ropes that tied the rudders. Then hoisting the foresail to the wind they made for the beach. 41 But striking a reef, they ran the vessel aground. The bow stuck and remained immovable, and the stern was being broken up by the surf. 42 The soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners, lest any should swim away and escape. 43 But the centurion, wishing to save Paul, kept them from carrying out their plan. He ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and make for the land, 44 and the rest on planks or on pieces of the ship. And so it was that all were brought safely to land.

- *It was day... Psalm 30:5 (ESV) For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.*
- Right before salvation comes, there is a struggle over your life. The soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners, but by the centurion's authority and command, the prisoners were saved and ultimately set free. So it is with the redeemed. Satan wants to kill the prisoners of sin but the ONE with greater authority has the power to save you and set you free.

**44 and the rest on planks or on pieces of the ship. And so it was that all were brought safely to land.**

I know many of you have been severely hurt by a storm that left an aftermath of broken pieces.

**IT MAY BE ON BROKEN PIECES, BUT JESUS WILL BRING YOU SAFELY TO SHORE!**

- Jesus is the better captain who would not lead you into death but into life
- Jesus is the better way who shepherds you to still waters. (Jn 14:6)

- Jesus is the better Paul who says take heart; I've taken the storm of all storms and this small storm, though you hang onto broken pieces, shall pass - take courage, take heart, receive hope.