

THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Doctrine and Duty for Disciples Series

Acts of the Apostles

Stormy Blessings

Acts 27:1-26

[1] And when it was decided that we should sail to Italy, they delivered Paul and some other prisoners to one named Julius, a centurion of the Augustan Regiment. [2] So, entering a ship of Adramyttium, we put to sea, meaning to sail along the coasts of Asia. Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, was with us. [3] And the next day we landed at Sidon. And Julius treated Paul kindly and gave him liberty to go to his friends and receive care. [4] When we had put to sea from there, we sailed under the shelter of Cyprus, because the winds were contrary. [5] And when we had sailed over the sea which is off Cilicia and Pamphylia, we came to Myra, a city of Lycia. [6] There the centurion found an Alexandrian ship sailing to Italy, and he put us on board. [7] When we had sailed slowly many days, and arrived with difficulty off Cnidus, the wind not permitting us to proceed, we sailed under the shelter of Crete off Salmone. [8] Passing it with difficulty, we came to a place called Fair Havens, near the city of Lasea. [9] Now when much time had been spent, and sailing was now dangerous because 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." [11] Nevertheless the centurion was more persuaded by the helmsman and the owner of the ship than by the things spoken by Paul. [12] And because the harbor was not suitable to winter in, the majority advised to set sail from there also, if by any means they could reach Phoenix, a harbor of Crete opening toward the southwest and northwest, and winter there. [13] When the south wind blew softly, supposing that they had obtained their desire, putting out to sea, they sailed close by Crete. [14] But not long after, a tempestuous head wind arose, called Euroclydon. [15] So when the ship was caught, and could not head into the wind, we let her drive. [16] And running under the shelter of an island called Claudia, we secured the skiff with difficulty. [17] When they had taken it on board, they used cables to undergird the ship; and fearing lest they should run aground on the Syrtis Sands, they struck sail and so were driven. [18] And because we were exceedingly tempest-tossed, the next day they lightened the ship. [19] On the third day we threw the ship's tackle overboard with our own hands. [20] Now when neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest beat on us, all hope that we would be saved was finally given up. [21] But after long abstinence from food, then Paul stood in the midst of them and said, "Men, you should have listened to me, and not have sailed from Crete and incurred this disaster and loss. [22] And now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. [23] For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve, [24] saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you.' [25] Therefore take heart, men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me. [26] However, we must run aground on a certain island."

Discussion Questions:

1. How can you prepare for the storms that will come in your life?
2. What should you look for as you weather the *storm*?
3. How can being in a storm affect how you make decisions?
4. What are some promises that God gives us as we weather a storm? (Heb 13:5, Rom 8:31, Philippians 4:6-7, Isaiah 26:3, Job 37:5-7, 13, John 14:27, Isaiah 41:10, Psalm 34:4, 1 Peter 5:7.)
5. What are some factors that may attribute in making irrational decisions which creates a *storm*?
 - Did you count the cost of sailing your ship in the storm? Where the *valuables* worth keeping?
 - Do you know if your *shipmates* were giving you wise counsel to help you back to safety?
 - Did the storm give you more clarity of what is important and what is not?
6. What are some things that are weighing you down from doing the Lord's work?
 - Is it starting to sink your *ship*?
 - Are you willing to throw those things *overboard* or sink with it? If you truly believe that Jesus is returning, when will you commit to getting rid of the excess baggage?

Reflect and Apply: Reflect on a decision you recently made that caused a *shipwreck*. What would you do differently? What lessons did you learn? Through this voyage did the Lord show you shipmates you can count on to provide wise counsel? Thank them, thank God for the Holy Spirit working in you. All Glory to God!