

The Acts of the Apostles

Chapter 27

How To Handle the Storms of Life

Memory Verse: Acts 27:25

"Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me."

I. Introduction

- A. In these last two chapters, we will learn the following great truths:
1. The _____ of hardships and peril for every Christian
 2. The value of a *sacrifice* and a *sure anchor*
 3. The infallible promise of a safe arrival to our destination
 4. That the "Acts" do not end at chapter 28:31.
- B. These truths are not easily learned except under great stress, and pressure. But Christians can prepare their hearts for the storms, and for the battles ahead by watching how people like Paul and others got through each "storm" and battle. These are some vital steps to survival, and sanity

II. Lesson - "How To Handle the Storms of Life" - Acts 27

- A. **With Good _____** (27:1-3)
1. Paul is in chains, and a prisoner, having to go to the Supreme Court of the day to remove the death sentence from off him by the Jews
 2. But Paul is in good company
 - a. The "we" includes: Luke, Timothy, Silas, and others
 - b. And now Aristarchus joins with them on this journey to Rome - not thrill seekers, but there for Paul - they were a TEAM. They knew the importance of not being alone!
- B. **With Good _____** (27:4-13). The Plan was to sail straight to Italy. But God had "other" plans.
1. We need common sense - the ability to be able to sense that something should not be done
 - a. The winds were "contrary"
 - b. Slow sailing, the winds not "suffering us" - not helping us
 - c. Sailing now dangerous - storms ahead - well known
 - d. The time of the year was Spring - the fast was the Jewish fast of Passover
 2. We also need spiritual sense - perception, discernment (1Cor 2:14)
 - a. Concern for the ship
 - b. But more importantly, Paul was concerned for the lives at stake
 - c. Paul was rejected.
 - 1) Julius believes two professional shippers instead of a converted Jewish evangelist. As a Christian, you better learn to listen to God's man when you don't have discernment!
 - 2) Julius takes a "VOTE" - democracy is no answer here
 - 3) Took a quick sampling of the weather "supposing" that things had changed in their favour (13).
- C. **With a Good _____** (27:14-20)
1. They head right into a storm called a Euroclydon- massive hurricane
 2. This storm will last **two weeks**. Some facts about "storms":
 - a. Storms are made for us to go "through", not "around."
 - b. Storms are meant to strengthen us (27:17) - cause us to reinforce our weaknesses.
 - c. Storms in life encourage us to get rid of excess "baggage" (27:18,19).
 3. The ship was not able to withstand the storm
 - a. The ship was "caught", trapped by the storm
 - b. The ship could only go with the wind - could not stay on course
 - c. The ship was headed into danger - quicksands
 - d. The ship required a lot of effort to stay afloat
 - e. Had to lighten the ship - get rid of cargo things that were bashing around inside and causing damage to the interior
 - f. Ultimately had to strip the ship of its tackling - fixtures
 - g. Our hope is tied to the ship we are in
 4. That's why the Christian needs to be a SAFE ship (2 Cor 5:17) that can withstand the storms, and ride it out ON COURSE!

D. **With Strong _____** (27:21-26)

1. Not boastful faith - long abstinence. This is Paul's FOURTH shipwreck (2 Cor 11:25,26).
2. But he does say, "I told you so." You should have listened to me - not because I am anybody special, but because the God I serve is special!
3. Paul encourages the men in the storm - Paul was like a eagle is during a storm, always "above" it (27:22-26).
 - a. Be of good cheer because God is in control (27:24)
 - b. Be of good cheer because I have been in constant communication with Headquarters (27:23) - heard the word of God
 - c. Be of good cheer because ***I believe God*** (27:25) in spite of the circumstances!
 - d. To accept the outcome, knowing all things work together for good (27:26; Rom 8:38). Does not know what island, nor how they would be "cast upon" it, but that they would ALL be fine!
 - e. Even though you will lose the ship!

E. **With _____** (27:27-32)

1. Not instant intervention by God (14th day) - His timing
2. Still in the storm being driven
3. Darkest time of the night fear strikes - no matter
4. Dropped anchors and "wished for the day" - couldn't wait for daylight to know where they were, and whether they
5. Don't flee the ship - you surrendered to God's way in the midst of the storm, stay with His plan!
6. Notice how the soldiers know obedience (32) - ***God make us soldiers of this Book!***

F. **With a Right _____** (27:33-35) - too long only focused on getting out of the storm

1. Of health needs - rest and food (stress takes away appetite)
2. Of heart needs - hope and cheer - without the drink!
3. Of spiritual needs - give thanks!!!

G. **With _____** (27:36-44)

1. They all join in with Paul - Paul was a good example
2. They were more than just men - they were **souls** - 276 of them!
3. The resultant safety (27:39-44)
 - a. They started looking for how to go forward - a little creek
 - b. They headed into danger, but in the hands of God
 - c. Their journey ended abruptly on a sandbar
 - d. The soldiers doubt the commitment of the prisoners to the plan - they could be very dangerous to the island people.
 - e. But the centurion wants Paul alive - like Paul
 - f. Everyone got to shore - safe!!!

IV. Conclusion - Review of the Principles

A. How to Get Through the Storms:

1. **With Good Fellowship** (27:1-3)
2. **With Good Sense** (27:4-13)
3. **With a Good Ship** (27:14-20)
4. **With Strong Faith** (27:21-26)
5. **With Patience** (27:27-32)
6. **With a Right Balance** (27:33-35)
7. **With Determination** (27:36-44)

B. What We Learn About Storms:

1. Life is like a sea voyage. Your _____ (2 Tim 2:20) is the ship.
2. You cannot get "home" (to heaven) in the ship that you are in without it _____ (2 Cor 4:16).
3. Jesus Christ can be compared also to a ship. He turns out to be THE ship, and if you and I are going to arrive "safe to land" He is going to have to DIE (Hebrews 9:28).
4. In real troubles and disasters, the man who believes God, and prays is always more reliable than the professionally trained technicians who "specialize" in their field!
5. Trouble comes alike to both the saint and the sinner, but the saint has Someone "on-board" with him who will get him through if he'll trust Him to the very end.
6. A Christian witness is always appropriate even in the worst situations.
7. You must at some point commit yourself to God's providence in order to get you to land - to get you through each storm.