



Navigating Through the Storms of Life...On Bits and Broken Pieces

Adult Bible Church School, 7/23/2022, 5 p.m. via ZOOM

Introduction

The Apostle Paul and other prisoners have been turned over to a Roman Centurion to be taken to Rome. They board a ship where the voyage begins late in the season, with bad weather making their progression very difficult. The captain of the boat thought they could reach a safer harbor, but hurricane-strength winds blew them off course and after riding the storm for two weeks, they are shipwrecked! While navigating through the storms of life can be very difficult, it is amazing how survival can be achieved by following wise counsel. We may never know where the journey of this life will take us when we start off. But whether the journey is in smooth sailing mode or the tempest is raging, the Lord is willing and able to help us navigate through it.

1) Paul's Warning Ignored: Acts 27:9-12

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.

***Who controls the deciding factor in your life? *Who do you listen to for advice? For direction?**

II) Paul's Words in the Tempest: Acts 27: 20-26

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 beside 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."

***What are some beneficial coping methods to deal with the extended storms in our lives?**

III) Paul's Wisdom to Believe God: Acts 27:27-31; 41-44

27 Now when the fourteenth night had come, as we were driven up and down in the Adriatic Sea, about midnight the sailors sensed that they were drawing near some land.

28 And they took soundings and found it to be twenty fathoms; and they took soundings again and found it to be fifteen fathoms.

29 Then, fearing lest we should run aground on the rocks, they dropped four anchors from the stern, and prayed for day to come.

30 And as the sailors were seeking to escape from the ship, when they had let down the skiff into the sea, under pretense of putting out anchors from the prow,

31 Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, “Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved.”

41 But striking a place where two seas met, they ran the ship aground; and the prow stuck fast and remained immovable, but the stern was being broken up by the violence of the waves.

42 And the soldiers’ plan was to kill the prisoners, lest any of them should swim away and escape.

43 But the centurion, wanting to save Paul, kept them from their purpose, and commanded that those who could swim should jump overboard first and get to land,

44 and the rest, some on boards and some on parts of the ship. And so it was that they all escaped safely to land.

****Have you or someone you know ever experienced unshakable confidence in God in the midst of life-threatening circumstances like Paul?***

Daily Applications for Navigating Through Life’s Storms

- *Storms will come; they are real!*
- *Storms reveal our faith. What’s inside of you will come out!*
- *The storm is for His glory! Remember Romans 12:12, “Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”*