

November 13, 2022

“God’s Own in the Storm”

Acts 27:1-26

Prel Rmks

LOGW

Dramamine ~ rough waters ~ not like a luxury cruise liner

Map ~ bulletin

(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 Clauda, 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."

INTRODUCTION

Detailed Account

Luke on board – “we”

Caesarea – Felix & Festus 2 yrs: detailed account

? of the critics: is this an accurate account?

Sir William Ramsay ~ British archaeologist & NT Scholar

1851-1939

Questioned the historicity of Acts – set out to disprove

Asia Minor

St. Paul the Traveler and the Roman Citizen (1895)

Acts = highly accurate

James Smith

“Luke’s account is “so perfect in all its parts as to admit of but one explanation, namely that it is a narrative of real events written by one personally engaged in them.”

This affirms and confirms the already great confidence we have in the authority and accuracy and inerrancy and infallibility and truthfulness and veracity of God’s Word.

It gives us the confidence to say: God’s Word is true and every man a liar who says it is not true.

Luke was not writing an allegory or a legend or creatively constructing a fictitious event to illustrate spiritual truth.

He was writing an accurate, historical account of real events which he witnessed firsthand.

And yet, his account is embedded with a wealth of wisdom for us as we face the storms of life.

Paul: (23) For there stood by me this night an angel of **the God to whom I belong** and whom I serve,

We want to use that statement as the foundation for the message this morning.

We often speak of life in nautical terms:

Life is a voyage

Smooth sailing

Shipwreck

Reached the other shore

We probably will never be caught in a storm of this nature but we certainly go through the storms of life, don't we?

Believers are not exempt ...

But we should not and do not have to respond like the world when we go through those storms.

Paul, who describes himself as belonging to the Lord, is a great example to us, of how a believer can respond and even be a minister to others in the storms of life.

Three headings

I. God's Own in the Midst of Difficulty 1-8

Sermon

(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**.

Romans 1:15 *I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also.*

Romans 15:28 *I shall go by way of you to Spain.*

Acts 19:21 *Paul purposed in the Spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, "After I have been there, I must also see Rome."*

Acts 23:11 *the Lord stood by him and said, "Be of good cheer, Paul; for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome."*

Regiment = cohort = 480 Century = 100

(2) So, entering a ship of **Adramyttium (NW Asia Minor)**, we put to sea, meaning to sail along the coasts of Asia. **Aristarchus**, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, was with us.

Acts 19:29 Aristarchus - Paul's travel companion.

Acts 20:4 Accompanied him to Asia— Aristarchus.

(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**. against us

under the shelter v. 7, 16 = nautical terminology:
under the lee (ESV) = protected from the wind

(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.

Great Difficulty

Couldn't take the course they wanted

Winds were contrary

Under the shelter

7 – arrived **with difficulty**

7 – **not able to proceed**

8 – passing by Salmone in Crete **with difficulty**

Anything but smooth sailing!

1. Life at its best is difficult.

Job 14:1 "Man *who is* born of woman Is of few days and full of trouble.

Christians are not exempt – in fact, in some ways Christians may have it more difficult because we are voyaging through life against the current and against the prevailing winds of this world

Acts 14:21-22 And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, **(22)** strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting *them* to continue in the faith, and *saying*, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."

John 16:33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

2 Timothy 3:1 But know this, that in the last days **perilous** times will come: = difficult, dangerous, fierce, furious, violent, hard to endure,

Because of this –

2. We need to prepare ourselves and our children for a difficult voyage through life

Let them meet with some resistance

Don't always rescue them

Don't make them the center of the Universe ...

Don't give them everything they want

Don't let them grow up ate up with the fact that they are special ...

{**"I'm special syndrome"** –

the regular rules don't apply to me

I'm so ... smart, clever, talented

Then they grow up and the real world hits them and they don't know how to handle it.}

Generations since WW2 ...

But its true for us, too. Theology of escapism ...

We better learn to expect it. Prepare for it and have the right understanding about it.

God's Own in the Midst of Difficulty

II. God's Own in the Midst of Danger 9-17

(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."

the Fast (Day of Atonement) was already over A.D.
60 = September 25

Middle of September thru middle of November =
dangerous

No sailing from mid-November thru 1st of March

Paul had experience – 3 previous shipwrecks (2Cor11)

Insight and wisdom of believers ... God-given

(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 (typhoon)** head wind arose, called **Euroclydon (northeaster)**.

(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 Clauda, **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.

At this point, we would not have wanted to be on that ship

Danger doesn't even begin to describe their situation

At the mercy of a typhoon out in the open sea

- 1. Faulty thinking and reasoning of the world compared to the calm, stable, assured advice of believers.**

Psalms 111:10 The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom ...

Proverbs 15:33 The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom ...

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge, *But* fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 9:10 "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Stability, security, order, good outcomes

Opposite = chaos

2. The Believer in the Midst of Dangerous world spiritually:

Ephesians 4:11-15 And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, **(12)** for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, **(13)** till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; **(14)** that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, **(15)** but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—

God's Own in the Midst of Difficulty

God's Own in the Midst of Danger

III. God's Own in the Midst of Despair 18-26

(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."

Conclusion

There are people all around us who are losing hope or they have already lost hope.

They may not say anything. You might never know it.
They put on a good front.

But they have given up.

They need someone to speak words of hope to them

Those of us who know the Lord need to be ready, as the Scripture says, to give them the reason for the hope that is in us.

The question of the hour –

Is the God of the Bible your God?

Do you belong to the Lord?

Are you one of God's own?