“How To Weather The Storm of Life”

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Acts 27: 8- 44 - www.coolspringsbaptist.org

Introduction: In this walk of life we have to learn how to weather the storms of life. Job 14:1 – Man that is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble. We are going to notice a storm that Paul and a ship full of men were in, and then notice some spiritual principles that can help us in the storms of life that we may face.

I. The Spiritual Warning That Wasn’t Accepted

V. 9 – Now when much time was spent, and when sailing was now dangerous, because the fast was now already past, Paul admonished them. 10 – And said unto them Sirs, I perceive that this voyage will be with hurt and much damage, not only of the lading and ship, but also our lives. 11- Nevertheless the centurion believed the master and the owner of the ship, more than those things which were spoken by Paul. 12 – And because the haven was not commodious to winter in-

A. The Warning To Stay In Fair Haven Revealed

V. 12 – again- And because the haven was not commodious to winter in-

Fair haven: is a type of the church. The church is a haven and a place of safety.

1. Paul Warns Them from His Spiritual Perception

V.10 – again – And said unto them, Sirs, I perceive that this voyage will be with much hurt and much damage, not only of the lading and ship, but also of our lives.

Paul was a man of God and He had spiritual perception that this voyage would be in danger if they pursued it.
If a man or woman who has God on their life try to give you spiritual advice, it would be wise to listen to them.

Paul Warns Them from Spiritual Perception
2. Paul Warns Them from His Reasonable Logic

V. 9 – 3rd phrase- because the fast[ season] was now already past- Now, because it was not good sailing season it would be dangerous to sail.

Paul not only had spiritual perception, but he was using reasonable logic or you might say in our day, using common horse sense.

A lot of people in this walk of life makes decisions that don’t even make sense and they get their lives all messed up because of it; these men were.

The Warning to Stay In Fair Haven Revealed

B. The Warning To Stay In Fair Haven Rejected

V. 11 – Nevertheless the centurion believed the master and the owner of the ship, more than those things which were spoken by Paul. 12 –And because the haven was not commodious to winter in-

The Centurion Listened To the Shipping Expert, instead of
Listen To the Spiritual Expert

The Centurion probably said, am I going to listen to a preacher and so called revelation from God, or am I going to listen to a shipping expert?

There is nothing wrong in listening to expert advice, but we had better go to God and get advice that isn’t contrary to the word of God.

Look at verse 12 – 2nd phrase-the more [majority] part advised to depart thence also-

The majority probably had a debate and out of it took a vote and 272 [V.37] hands went up to sail.

So, they went by the majority, instead of the man of God.

The Spiritual Warning That Wasn’t Accepted

II. The South Wind That Was Appealing

V. 13 – And when the south wind blew softly, supposing that they had obtained their purpose, losing thence, they sailed close by Crete.

This is the circumstance way to get you out of God’s will.
Somebody said: *would you look at that, I am certain we ought to sail now. There’s the wind that is blowing softly.*

What a wonderful time to sail! In other words, the circumstances are just right.

When you take off, whichever way the wind is blowing, *depending on signs or circumstances instead of God’s will,* you may find the soothing wind *turning into a horrible, howling cyclone.*

### III. The Stormy Weather That Was Apparent

#### A. The Struggling Men Who Were Fighting The Sea

1. What the Men Did That Was Helpful

   a) The **direction** that they went because they had no choice was helpful

   V.15 – *And when the ship was caught, and could not bear up to the wind,* **we let her drive.**
   When the ship was caught in the ruff fierce wind they went with the flow of the storm; it was the only thing they could do.

   When we are caught in the storm of life, the only thing we can do is go with the flow of the storm. We might try to fight the storm, but that will just make it worse.

   If God allows us to be in a storm, He has a purpose in it. [Romans 8:28]

   The **direction** that they went because they had no choice

   b) The **disposal** of weights to lighten the ship to keep it from sinking was helpful

   V.18 – *And we being exceedingly tossed with a tempest, the next day they lightened the ship;*
   19 – *And the third day we cast out with our own hands the tackling of the ship.*

   They threw the things that were hindering their survival overboard. They got rid of them.

**Reference Verse: Hebrews 12:1** – *Let us lay aside every weight and the sin*
which doth so easily beset us-

**What Sin**: unbelief- un-forgiving spirit- pet sins?

**Profit** was their motive when they started out, but now their motive is **survival**.

God allows storms to come in our lives to get rid of excess cargo in our lives that may hinder us from being what we ought to be in the Lord. **Nobody has to tell us what the excess cargo may be in our lives; we know if excess cargo is in our life.**

**c) The drag** from the anchors to slow the ship so it would not crash in the submerged rocks was helpful

V. 29 – *Then fearing lest we should have fallen upon rocks, they cast four anchors out of the stern-*

I want to mention 4 spiritual anchors that we need to throw out in the storm of life to keep from crashing.

1. **Prayer to God**--- is one spiritual anchor.
2. **Word of God**----- is one spiritual anchor.
3. **House of God**----- is one spiritual anchor.
4. **Faith in God**------ is one spiritual anchor.

What the Men Did That Was Helpful

2. **What the Men Did That Wasn’t Helpful**

   a) **Their Wishing**

   V. 29 – *Then fearing lest we should have fallen upon rocks, they cast forth anchors out of the stern, and wished for the day.*

   **Wishing Won’t Work**: They did something that was sad because it was all they knew to do because they were not saved.

   **Wishing The Sun Would Come Up!**

   **Wishing The Stars Would Come Out!**

   **Difference**: Paul wasn’t wishing, Paul was praying!
We have a generation that hasn’t anything too hold on to when storms come in their lives.

When there are storms, someone says, “well, good luck, hope things will work out!
There is an old song which says: Wishing will make it so, but that song is wrong!

What substance was there in a wish? It is like walking on egg shells, or walking on jelly.

Their Wishing

b) Their Withdrawal

V. 30 – And when the shipman was about to flee out of the ship, when they had let down the boat into the sea, under color as though they would have cast anchors out of the foreship. 31- Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, except these abides in the ship, ye cannot be saved.

Some figured they would get out of the mess by pretending to letting down the anchors, but instead their aim was to let down the boats and leave.

POINT: We can’t escape the storms of life by withdrawing in a life boat.

Some withdraw into alcohol.
Some withdraw by running away from home.
Some withdraw by suicide.
Some withdraw by dropping out of society.
Some withdraw by dropping out of church.
However, withdrawal is not the answer.

In V.20 – Read- We find help almost gone. They knew help was almost gone.

The Struggling Men Who Were Fighting the Sea

B. The Spiritual Man Who Was Faith-ing The Storm

1. Paul’s Calmness That Was Remarkable
V.21 – But after long abstinence, Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have granted this harm and loss. 22- And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man’s life among you, but of the ship.23 –
For there stood by me this night, the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve. 24 –Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee.

Paul revealed his calmness which also aided in the men being calm in the storm. When you are trusting God you can be calm and have peace in the storms of life.

Paul’s Calmness That Was Remarkable

2. Paul’s Cheerfulness That Was Remarkable

V.22 a – And now I exhort you to be of good cheer.
V. 25a- Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe in God, that it shall be even as it was told me.

Paul was cheerful and he tells them to be of good cheer.

Question: How can a person be cheerful in the storms of life?
Paul’s belief in God and taking Him at his word caused him to be cheerful. God through an angel told Paul he would reach Caesar at Rome.[V.24]

We need to do the same during the storms of life; believe God and take Him at his word. Claim His promises because He does not lie.

a) The Strength That Was Attained From Food

Read V. 33, 34 ----Storms in our lives drains us and exhausts our energy. They had not eaten in days.

A Christian must have their spiritual food for their spiritual strength during the storms of Life.

b) The Safety That Was Assured From Faith

V.34 – Wherefore I pray you to take some meat, saying, for this is for your health; their shall not a hair fall from the head of any of you.

Paul was letting them know that they were not going to even loose one hair from their head during this storm.

How was Paul able to assure them? Answer: Paul had faith in God tasking care of them. He had faith all the way through this crisis.

The Strength That Was attained From Food
The Safety That Was assured From Faith

c) The Shore That Was Reached Finally
Verses 36-44……talks about them reaching shore safely.

V.44 – And the rest, some on boards, and some on broken pieces of the ship. So it came to pass, that they escaped all safe to land.

All of God’s children are going to reach that Heavenly shore one day and all of the storms of life will be over.

Revelation 21: 4 – And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Conclusion: “How to Weather the Storms of Life”

When we reach that Heavenly shore it will be wonderful, but until that time we need to apply some of these principles to our lives.

1. There was the warning from the Man of God who was ignored.
2. There was the soft wind blowing getting them to think that the circumstances was just right.
   
   We have got to go by God’s will, instead of signs or circumstances.
3. The Sailors went with the flow of the wind, instead of fighting the wind. We have got to go with the flow of our storms instead of fighting them.
4. They threw out 4 anchors to slow the ship down so it would not run into the rocks.
   
   We have got to throw out some anchors so we won’t crash in the storm. No.1 There is the anchor of PRAYER to God- No.2 – Word of God- No.3- House of God – No.4- Faith in God-

5. We noticed that Paul was calm & cheerful in the midst of the storm because he was trusting God; God gave Paul assurance though an angel that he would reach Rome.
6. We noticed that Paul instructs them to eat, to keep their strength up; so must we eat our spiritual food. 7. Then, they finally reached shore, & we will reach Heaven’s shore one day.