

WHEN THE STORMS DON'T STOP...
GOD ALWAYS COMES OUT ON TOP



Elder: Chadwick Sadaphal

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How many storms have you had in your life recently?

- Seems like one problem after another?
- Can't seem to get over the hump?
- Can't find a way out?

**Let's take a look at one of Paul's
final journeys recorded in the
New Testament**

ACTS 27:1 (KJV)

1 And when it was determined that we should sail into Italy, they delivered Paul and certain other prisoners unto one named Julius, a centurion of Augustus' band. **2** And entering into a ship of Adramyttium, we launched, meaning to sail by the coasts of Asia; one Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, being with us.

Once again, Paul is “in custody”

- Along with other prisoners placed under a centurion named Julius' command
- Every centurion mentioned in the NT is mentioned with honor
- The believer is counted among the worthless, criminals and violators of society

The use of “We” shows that Luke, the author of the book of Acts, is with Paul on this journey as he has been before

- **Verse 2 tells us that a man named Aristarchus is with them as well**

ACTS 27:3 (KJV)

3 And the next day we touched at Sidon. And Julius courteously entreated Paul, and gave him liberty to go unto his friends to refresh himself.

This foreshadows what is to come later on in this story

- **Paul is in his custody, yet Julius allows him to visit believers in Sidon**
- **This shows the respect that they had for one another**

LUKE 4:18 (KJV)

18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

PSALM 69:33 (KJV)

33 For the Lord heareth the poor, and despiseth not his prisoners.

HEBREWS 13:3 (KJV)

3 Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body.

ACTS 27:4-8 (KJV)

4 And when we had launched from thence, we sailed under Cyprus, because the winds were contrary. **5** And when we had sailed over the sea of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we came to Myra, a city of Lycia. **6** And there the centurion found a ship of Alexandria sailing into Italy; and he put us therein.

ACTS 27:7-8 (KJV)

7 And when we had sailed slowly many days, and scarce were come over against Cnidus, the wind not suffering us, we sailed under Crete, over against Salmone; **8** And, hardly passing it, came unto a place which is called The fair havens; nigh whereunto was the city of Lasea.

“...because the winds were contrary”

- **This is the beginning of the storms**
- **Life at sea was making travel very difficult**
- **Verses 5 & 6 detail how Julius had them change ships at Lycia**

“...we had sailed slowly many days...”

- The conditions were worsening**
- Verse 8 says that they barely arrived at
“The fair havens”, a small port town**

**HAVE THE STORMS IN YOUR LIFE
BEEN INTENSIFYING???**

ACTS 27:9-10 (KJV)

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 of our lives.

Paul realizes the danger everyone is in and tells his captors not to keep going

- He had already been shipwrecked 3 times previously (2 Corinthians 11:25)
- His own experience at sea
- His close communion with God

WHAT IS THE RESPONSE TO PAUL'S ADVICE??

HE IS COMPLETELY IGNORED!!

**WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME SOMEONE
IGNORED YOUR COUNSEL?**

PROVERBS 12:15 (KJV)

15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.

PROVERBS 19:20 (KJV)

20 Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.

PROVERBS 11:14 (KJV)

14 Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.

The master of the ship and the centurion were focused on greed and worldliness

- **Master thought his ship's cargo would spoil if they idled too long**
- **Centurion thought the ship couldn't survive in the harbor at this time of year**

**HOW MANY HAVE RISKED THEIR LIVES
FOR GREED AND POSSESSIONS??**

ACTS 27:14-20 (KJV)

14 But not long after there arose against it a tempestuous wind, called Euroclydon. **15** And when the ship was caught, and could not bear up into the wind, we let her drive. **16** And running under a certain island which is called Clauda, we had much work to come by the boat:

ACTS 27:17-18 (KJV)

17 Which when they had taken up, they used helps, undergirding the ship; and, fearing lest they should fall into the quicksands, strake sail, and so were driven. **18** And we being exceedingly tossed with a tempest, the next day they lightened the ship;

ACTS 27:20 (KJV)

19 And the third day we cast out with our own hands the tackling of the ship.

20 And when neither sun nor stars in many days appeared, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope that we should be saved was then taken away.

Verse 14 describes a massive sea storm — Euroclydon (“northeaster”)

- So devastating that “We let her drive” means they let the storm drive the ship
- Verses 15-20 describe the desperate efforts of the crew to hold the ship together

Verse 14 describes a massive sea storm — Euroclydon (“northeaster”) (cont.)

- “...neither sun nor stars in many days appeared...” shows the desperation they felt after so much time had passed with no solution

**DOES THIS DESCRIBE THE STORM GOING
ON IN YOUR LIFE RIGHT NOW?**

THIS IS WHEN GOD
SHINES THE BRIGHTEST!!!

ACTS 27:21-26(KJV)

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 gained 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.

ACTS 27:23-26 (KJV)

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.

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

26 Howbeit we must be cast upon a certain island.

“...for there shall be no loss of any man’s life among you...”

- GOD WILL SAVE EVERYONE ON BOARD!!!**
- YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD COULD
SAVE EVERYONE AROUND YOU!!!**

The angel of the Lord assures Paul

- “...thou must be brought before Caesar...”
- Nothing will stop God’s plans from being completed

“...for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me”

- Paul proclaims his faith in God's promise**
- Paul proclaims the necessity of trial first**
- Only trust and belief in God first will save us, not the other way around**

JEREMIAH 17:7 (KJV)

7 Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is. **8** For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.

ISAIAH 26:3 (KJV)

3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

PSALM 37:5 (KJV)

**5 Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him;
and he shall bring it to pass.**

Verse 26 shows Paul explaining how their trial of shipwreck would begin “upon a certain island”

- **The island is Malta, based on Acts 28:1**
- **This is where the 2nd half of the story begins**

ACTS 27:27-29 (KJV)

27 But when the fourteenth night was come, as we were driven up and down in Adria, about midnight the shipmen deemed that they drew near to some country;
28 And sounded, and found it twenty fathoms: and when they had gone a little further, they sounded again, and found it fifteen fathoms. 29 Then fearing lest we should have fallen upon rocks, they cast four anchors out of the stern, and wished for the day.

**“...But when the fourteenth night was come...
about midnight...”**

- A full 2 weeks have passed since they left harbor after Paul’s vision and declaration**

**HOW LONG HAS
YOUR TRIAL LASTED?**

It was also midnight and the sailors had no idea where they were

- **Desperation and fear kick in, as they attempt to go against Paul's vision and God's plan by trying to escape**

HOW TRUE IS THIS
FOR US TODAY!!!

ACTS 27:30-32 (KJV)

30 And as the shipmen were about to flee out of the ship, when they had let down the boat into the sea, under colour as though they would have cast anchors out of the foreship, **31** Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved. **32** Then the soldiers cut off the ropes of the boat, and let her fall off.

**Paul discovers the plot, and tells everyone
God's plan must be followed exactly — or else**

- **God is the only way to salvation**
- **Any shortcut or easy way out leads to
destruction**

IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STORM,
STAY IN GOD'S BOAT!!!!
DO NOT TRY AND ESCAPE!!!

1 CORINTHIANS 3:11 (KJV)

11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

ACTS 4:12 (KJV)

12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

ISAIAH 41:13 (KJV)

13 For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand,
saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.

**The word and vision from God has
placed Paul in command of the
situation while others were afraid**

ACTS 27:33-37 (KJV)

33 And while the day was coming on, Paul besought them all to take meat, saying, This day is the fourteenth day that ye have tarried and continued fasting, having taken nothing.

34 Wherefore I pray you to take some meat: for this is for your health: for there shall not an hair fall from the head of any of you.

ACTS 27:35-37 (KJV)

35 And when he had thus spoken, he took bread, and gave thanks to God in presence of them all: and when he had broken it, he began to eat.

36 Then were they all of good cheer, and they also took some meat. **37** And we were in all in the ship two hundred threescore and sixteen souls.

Terror and sea sickness have eliminated the appetites of all onboard for the last 14 days

- **Paul knows food will revitalize and strengthen everyone on board for the final push**

Terror and sea sickness have eliminated the appetites of all onboard for the last 14 days (cont.)

- **He again reassures them of God's plan not to have anyone die**
- **He blesses and breaks bread, and all partake in it, resulting in "good cheer"**

**PAUL HAD CHURCH WORSHIP AND
COMMUNION ON THE BOAT!!!
YOUR PULPIT CAN BE ANYWHERE!!!!**

1 CORINTHIANS 12:27 (KJV)

27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

PSALM 133:1 (KJV)

**1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for
brethren to dwell together in unity!**

**The Bible tells us that there were 276 people
on board this ship**

- **Perhaps more than you thought**
- **God's plan and miracles will always be
remembered and witnessed by many**

ACTS 27:38-41 (KJV)

38 And when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship, and cast out the wheat into the sea. **39** And when it was day, they knew not the land: but they discovered a certain creek with a shore, into the which they were minded, if it were possible, to thrust in the ship.

ACTS 27:40-41 (KJV)

40 And when they had taken up the anchors, they committed themselves unto the sea, and loosed the rudder bands, and hoised up the mainsail to the wind, and made toward shore. **41** And falling into a place where two seas met, they ran the ship aground; and the forepart stuck fast, and remained unmoveable, but the hinder part was broken with the violence of the waves.

The preparations made for making landfall

**THERE IS STILL ONE FINAL ACT
TO THIS STORY**

ACTS 27:42 (KJV)

42 And the soldiers' counsel was to kill the prisoners, lest any of them should swim out, and escape.

The soldiers were governed by a law that if they allowed a prisoner to escape, they were to be killed

- **This was their biggest fear**
- **We don't know how many of the 276 on board were prisoners**

**IS THIS THE END? WOULD GOD NOT SAVE
ALL THE MEN HE PROMISED TO??**

ACTS 27:43-44 (KJV)

43 But the centurion, willing to save Paul, kept them from their purpose; and commanded that they which could swim should cast themselves first into the sea, and get to land: **44** And the rest, some on boards, and some on broken pieces of the ship. And so it came to pass, that they escaped all safe to land.

God overrules the soldiers' orders and the shipwreck

- He touches the heart of the centurion to save Paul and the rest of the men
- “...they escaped all safe to land”

2 CORINTHIANS 1:10 (KJV)

10 Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us;

ISAIAH 41:10 (KJV)

10 Fear not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

WHEN THE STORMS DON'T STOP...

GOD ALWAYS ENDS UP ON TOP!!!!

**PAUL WAS ONCE AGAIN HELD CAPTIVE WITH
275 OTHERS ON A BOAT IN THE MIDDLE OF
DANGEROUS STORMS!!!!**

**THE STORMS IN THEIR LIVES, AND YOUR LIFE,
HAVE INTENSIFIED!!!**

DO YOU FEEL LIKE GIVING UP??
THAT YOU WON'T MAKE IT??

FEAR NOT!!!

**BECAUSE GOD IS SENDING A MESSAGE OF
ENCOURAGEMENT IN THE MIDDLE OF YOUR
STORM!!!**

JUST LIKE HE DID FOR PAUL!!!
HE WILL DO THE SAME FOR YOU!!!!
BUT ONLY ON ONE CONDITION.....

STAY IN GOD'S BOAT DURING THE STORM!!!

DO NOT TRY TO ESCAPE!!!!

HIS GRACE AND MERCY WILL DELIVER YOU TO
LANDFALL AND SAFETY
THROUGH THE STORM!!!

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GOD ALWAYS COMES OUT ON TOP



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