



“Learning to Survive
the Shipwrecks
of Life”
Acts 27
April 7, 2019

The Start of the Journey Vs 1-8

The Storm on the Horizon Vs 9-13

The Storm without Warning Vs 14-20

The Storm Forces Us to Act Vs 21-44

- ✓ We can try to pretend or ignore it
- ✓ We can give in and give up
- ✓ We can try to just survive
- ✓ We can turn and trust & thrive Vs 21-26
- ✓ We must throw out anchors Vs 27-44

1. The Anchor of Reliability & Stability Vs 20-26

- God's Presence
- God's Possession
- God's Providence & Power & Our Perspective

2. The Anchor of Relationship Vs 27-32

3. The Anchor of Renewal Vs 33-36

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THE ACTS: THE END OF THE BEGINNING

“Learning to Survive the Shipwrecks of Life”

Acts 27

April 7, 2019 AM Service

We continue our march through the end of the book of Acts today by looking at chapter 27 where we left Paul still in jail. By the way we have just 1 more message in this series and we will have gone all the way through the book of Acts which means that Easter is just 3 Sundays away. So praying for each of us to find that one that we can invite to be our guest in worship that Sunday.

ILLUS: Movie - The Perfect Storm

Read Vs 14-25

Those Perfect Storms, except in our shipwrecks, many times we don't have a radar to see them coming, they come out of nowhere, just like in Paul's case and the ship he was on.

The Dr. tells us that dreaded word cancer, our spouse walks out on us, one of our children goes off the deep end, the money simply has run out, you have lost your job, your boyfriend/girlfriend dumps you, somebody close to you dies, your baby's fever won't break, you feel like you are about to run aground and the ship will break up, you find yourself battling it seems for your very life, what do you do?

Panic sets in, grief, despair closes in, we can't see the light because it is so dark, maybe you are rowing as hard as you can but you just don't feel like you are getting anywhere in this storm. God could have calmed it, but He hasn't. It seems as impossible as it could possibly get.

How can we handle it, and how in the world can we be expected to enjoy these shipwrecks? Is that really possible?

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Storms we see and some we don't see coming seen and unseen prepared, un
Storms Cause Us to Throw Out the Anchors

The Anchors We Can Throw Out and Must Throw Out if we are to survive,
much less learn to thrive in these moments. How did Paul do it?

We have to throw out these anchors into the troubled seas that rage around us
to keep us from our ships being destroyed, from drifting into utter and
complete despair **storms that stay, save, survive, steal, kill & destroy**

5. The Anchor of Reliability & Stability Vs 20-26

- God's Presence
- God's Possession – (He Owns me & I belong to Him)
- God's Providence & Power & Our Perspective

When you get into a storm, you can lose all sense of direction, your bearings if you will. All we can see is the storm that is bearing down upon us, the waves, the wind, that is what we focus on and quite frankly it is hard not to. But here Paul gives us a secret. Paul tells them, yep the ship is going down, but we're going make it. Be of good cheer, none of us will be lost, God told me. You see, Paul was listening to the Lord, he had learned to not focus so much on the waves and the wind as the Master of the waves and that wind.

We need to run quickly and hold fast to the most important anchor, God's Holy Word for there we will find rest for our weary souls
God's Word [Isaiah 43:1-4](#) [Psalm 23](#) (Video Clip)

Looking at the Past – What God did in the past, Paul could look back and see it over and over again.

Looking at the Present – What God is doing right now

Looking at the Future – What God has promised to do in the future

God's Presence – God promises to be with us in the midst of our storms and shipwrecks. Now remember, there will be times that He will be hard to see, hard to hear, difficult to feel, but it still does not change the fact that He is right there. Remember too, just because He is there, does not mean it will all go away as it did on the Sea of Galilee with the disciples. Sometimes God will ride the storm out with us.

By the way, the place where we can certainly find that anchor of stability is right here in God's house surrounded by God's people worshipping Him. There we can also find great stability.

6. The Anchor of Relationship Vs 27-32

The tendency becomes each man for himself, abandon ship and hope for the best. That is not the way to deal with the shipwrecks of life, although that is most certainly what the enemy wants us to do. He wants us to isolate ourselves, convince us that we are all alone and no one understands and no one can help us. That is just not true. We desperately need the body of Christ. Without we truly are sunk. We have to throw that anchor out and quite frankly many times in the bigger shipwrecks, we somebody to help us throw out that anchor because it can be heavy to throw out by yourself. It's why I continually preach about the importance of SS Small Groups. I don't think you and I can live without it!

Some on the ship were going to abandon the others and get in the smaller boats and abandon the rest. Paul didn't let that happen.

ILLUS: The Hodges Family

7. The Anchor of Renewal Vs 33-36

Physical nourishment, emotional, and most importantly spiritual. We find that place of renewal in prayer. Even if we don't feel like it pray. Pray your heart. Don't pray something you don't mean. Remember, God knows what we are thinking anyway. Be honest. Tell Him where you are, where you are struggling.

These sailors had gone for 14 days without food, they were starving. So they ate: It is important during the shipwrecks to take care of our bodies both physically and emotionally.

And they prayed: They gave thanks. We often cut corners when we are in these shipwrecks, and yet another anchor we must have is our communication with the Father. Without it we are sunk.

8. The Anchor of Reality Vs 37-44

Jump in, get directly involved. We have to do our part to work our way through the storms, through the shipwrecks and get to the shore. The ship was breaking apart and they needed to get off. There were no helicopters coming to save them. They had to take action.

After you have thrown out the other three anchors, throw this one out and do what it takes to work through the storm. Get help, admit

where we were wrong, don't just sit there and just expect everything to just work itself out, it won't.

We are either about to go through a shipwreck, We are going through a storm or a shipwreck right now, or we are coming out of one. Life is just simply full of shipwrecks, there is no way around them.

Maybe you don't find yourself in either place, but you know someone who is either in the middle of one, or has just come through one. You know what, they desperately need you in their lives.

The greatest secret of all in learning how to enjoy the shipwrecks of life comes in the preparation while you and I are in the harbor of life, in the calm water.

ILLUS: Rafting in the Ocee River, calm pool, then 8 foot drop.

We need to make sure that our anchors are already in the water, going into the deep waters, that we are growing spiritually, that we are already connected to the body of Christ, that we are daily renewing ourselves, so that when these shipwrecks do come, and they will, we are ready. Doesn't mean we will like them, but we can respond in faith instead of fear, ride it out in the hand of Almighty God. and watch His mighty hand at work in your life.

Remember too that these anchors that we throw into the troubled seas we will stand the test of time, that will hold.

Our Reponse:

- Find yourself in the middle of that shipwreck, come to Jesus today. Ask someone to pray over you, seek His face together
- One of your friends is there, help them today throw out the anchors
- Maybe you are not in the storms, but are you prepared for them. are you connected to that SS Small group, are you growing in your walk such as LifeTraks will help you do? Are you getting ready?
- Have you trusted Jesus Christ today, the one who is the Master of the storms and the Anchor in our lives? Why not today? ABC

- Is God calling you today to connect with this church family? To put down that anchor today.

Our Mission Engaging people with the hope of the gospel to see lives transformed.

Our Map to Growing – Our Transformational Journey (Image)

Connect yourself and others to Christ and the Church

Grow in a deepening relationship with Christ

Commit your times and resources to serve Christ and others

Go share the love of Christ with everyone everywhere

Our Motives: Relationship *over* isolation; Life Transformation *over* more information; Biblical Truth *over my* opinion; Going *over* staying; Investing *over* consuming; Strong families *over* busy calendars

Our Measures/Marks: How Am I Living Authentically, Biblically, Connectedly, Desperately, Evangelistically, & Faithfully?