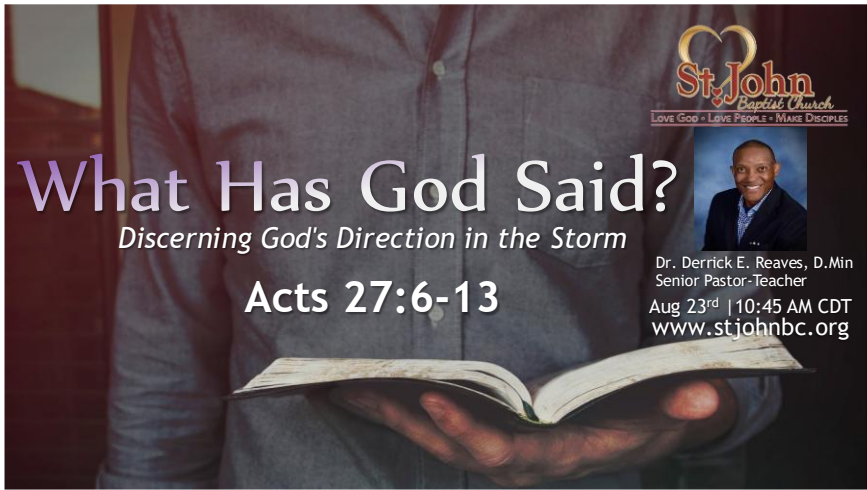


August 23, 2026



Sermon Notes

Acts 27:6–13 (ESV)

⁶There the centurion found a ship of Alexandria sailing for Italy and put us on board.

⁷We sailed slowly for a number of days and arrived with difficulty off Cnidus, and as the wind did not allow us to go farther, we sailed under the lee of Crete off Salmone.

⁸Coasting along it with difficulty, we came to a place called Fair Havens, near which was the city of Lasea.

⁹Since much time had passed, and the voyage was now dangerous because even the Fast was already over, Paul advised them,

¹⁰saying, “Sirs, I perceive that the voyage will be with injury and much loss, not only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our lives.”

¹¹But the centurion paid more attention to the pilot and to the owner of the ship than to what Paul said.

¹²And because the harbor was not suitable to spend the winter in, the majority decided to put out to sea from there, on the chance that somehow they could reach Phoenix, a harbor of Crete, facing both southwest and northwest, and spend the winter there.

¹³Now when the south wind blew gently, supposing that they had obtained their purpose, they weighed anchor and sailed along Crete, close to the shore.

(Answer key located on the last page)

BIG IDEA — *Even when circumstances seem to shout “abandon the plan,” discernment says “anchor in God’s Word.” When we weigh every decision on the scale of Scripture and the Spirit’s leading, God will steer us safely through, no matter how the winds are blowing.*

I. Discern the Delay Acts 27:6–8 (ESV)

It should have been a quick, easy trip. Instead, verse 7 tells us it quickly became an _____.

In Greek, “fair” (as in Fair Havens) *kalos* — means good, pleasant, _____.

Discernment doesn’t mean you’ll always understand the delay while you’re living in it. It means you refuse to let your _____ write the final chapter.

APPLICATION

Identify one area of your life right now where a delay has quietly started to feel like denial. Write it down, then pray this each morning this week: “Lord, show me what You’re doing in the waiting, not just what You’re withholding.”

II. Discern the Danger Acts 27:9–10 (ESV)

Paul had no nautical credentials, but he had discernment sharpened by walking closely with _____ through hard experience.

When a godly warning collides with expert opinion, weigh the godly warning first — not the loudest voice in the room or the biggest _____.

God's warnings are never given to scare us. They are given because He loves us too much to let us sail blindly into a storm, He has already _____.

APPLICATION

Think of one warning you've been tempted to brush aside. Take it to one trusted, spiritually mature person this week and ask, "Am I listening to discernment, or only to what I want to hear?"

III. Discern the Deception *Acts 27:11–13 (ESV)*

Verse 12 adds one more uncomfortable detail: "the majority decided." Not one expert — a whole _____ agreeing with itself.

The wind turning gentle wasn't confirmation. It was the calm before the _____ that would nearly cost every person on board their lives.

Feelings are not a reliable compass. Only God's _____ is a reliable compass.

APPLICATION

The next time the crowd's momentum feels stronger than godly counsel, stop and ask one question out loud before you act: "Does this decision align with God's Word?"

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Where in my life right now am I trusting what I can see — a calm feeling, a confident voice, a majority opinion — more than what God has already said in His Word?

Answer Key

I. Discern the Delay

ordeal | lovely | circumstances

II. Discern the Danger

God | paycheck | forecasted

III. Discern the Deception

room | storm | Word

The Good News

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, (Romans 5:1)

The Bad News

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
(Romans 3:23)

The Ugly News

For the wages of sin is death, ... (Romans 6:23a)

The Great News

... but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
(Romans 6:23a)

Guess What?

You can become a Christian right now and experience salvation and the gift of eternal life through God's Son the Lord Jesus Christ! Simply Pray this Prayer Right Now! **"God thank you for Jesus Christ who died on the cross for my sins.**

Thank you for receiving what Jesus did for me on the cross as payment for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins. Right now I accept Jesus into my heart and ask that he become my Savior and Lord! Amen!"

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. (Romans 10:9-10)

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