

August 30, 2026

"Hold On, Let Go, Hold Each Other"

Acts 27:14-20

St. John
Baptist Church

LOVE GOD • LOVE PEOPLE • MAKE DISCIPLES



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Sermon Notes

Acts 27:14–20 (ESV)

¹⁴But soon a tempestuous wind, called the northeaster, struck down from the land.

¹⁵And when the ship was caught and could not face the wind, we gave way to it and were driven along.

¹⁶Running under the lee of a small island called Cauda, we managed with difficulty to secure the ship's boat.

¹⁷After hoisting it up, they used supports to undergird the ship. Then, fearing that they would run aground on the Syrtis, they lowered the gear, and thus they were driven along.

¹⁸Since we were violently storm-tossed, they began the next day to jettison the cargo.

¹⁹And on the third day they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands.

²⁰When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope of our being saved was at last abandoned.

(Answer key located on the last page)

BIG IDEA — *When life's storms strip away every sense of control, faith isn't the absence of fear — it's holding on to God, holding each other up, and letting go of everything that would drag us under.*

I. Storms Steadfastly Faced Acts 27:14–15 (ESV)

Verse 15 says the ship was "caught" and "could not face the wind." That's not poetic language — it's a plain, honest description of total _____.

We don't get to choose when storms come. We only get to choose how we _____ them.

When the fear shows up, we don't run from it — we look straight at it, with our eyes fixed on _____ instead of on the wind.

APPLICATION

The next time a sudden storm hits — bad news, a hard conversation, a diagnosis — before you problem-solve, or call a friend, or scroll social media, stop and say one honest prayer out loud. Let God hear your voice before the storm gets the last word.

II. Sustaining Strength Together Acts 27:16–17 (ESV)

The Greek word behind "with difficulty" is *molis* — it means whatever got done, got done through exhausting _____.

Notice: not one part of this rescue was a solo act. Luke even says "we" — no one survived the storm _____.

Sustaining strength isn't found in isolation — it's found together, in the _____ of Christ.

APPLICATION

Identify one person in a storm right now. This week, do one specific, practical thing for them — a meal, a ride, or a phone call when you know they'll be alone. Don't wait to be asked.

III. Shedding Surplus Struggles-Acts 27:18

What had once been an _____ had become a _____.

Sometimes holding on to what matters most means letting go of what doesn't matter at _____.

You cannot grip your grudge and grip your _____ at the same time.

APPLICATION

Name one thing — a grudge, a worry, a habit, a false front — that God is asking you to throw overboard. Write it down. Then tear it up, as a physical act of letting go, and ask a trusted friend to hold you accountable to leave it there.

IV. Secured Despite Despair Acts 27:19–20 (ESV)

Luke doesn't soften what happened next — he writes plainly that "all hope of our being saved was at last abandoned." Not some hope. _____ hope.

Despair is not the same thing as _____.

APPLICATION

If hope feels abandoned, you don't have to carry it alone. Reach out to one trusted believer in the next twenty-four hours and say it plainly: 'I need someone to remind me God hasn't left'.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

What am I still holding onto right now — control, pride, a grudge, fear — that is competing with my grip on hope? And who in my life needs me to be the hand that holds on when they are going under?

Answer Key

I. Storms Steadfastly Faced helplessness face God	II. Sustaining Strength Together effort alone body
III. Shedding Surplus Struggles asset liability peace all	IV. Secured Despite Despair All defeat

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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