

September 20, 2026

Survivors of the Storm

St. John
Baptist Church
LOVE GOD • LOVE PEOPLE • MAKE DISCIPLES



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Acts 27:37–44 (ESV)

Sermon Notes

Acts 27:37–44 (ESV)

³⁷(We were in all 276 persons in the ship.)

³⁸And when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship, throwing out the wheat into the sea.

³⁹Now when it was day, they did not recognize the land, but they noticed a bay with a beach, on which they planned if possible to run the ship ashore.

⁴⁰So they cast off the anchors and left them in the sea, at the same time loosening the ropes that tied the rudders. Then hoisting the foresail to the wind they made for the beach.

⁴¹But striking a reef, they ran the vessel aground. The bow stuck and remained immovable, and the stern was being broken up by the surf.

⁴²The soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners, lest any should swim away and escape.

⁴³But the centurion, wishing to save Paul, kept them from carrying out their plan. He ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and make for the land,

⁴⁴and the rest on planks or on pieces of the ship. And so it was that all were brought safely to land.

(Answer key located on the last page)

BIG IDEA — *God makes survivors out of those who keep trusting Him after their own plans have failed.*

I. Bold Faith in the Middle of the Wreckage Acts 27:37–41 (ESV)

Paul — a _____ with no rank, title, or power — stood up, gave thanks, and ate before anyone else moved.

Bold faith is not the absence of fear. It is choosing to trust God and take confident, _____ action anyway, especially when others are watching.

The crew threw the wheat — real cargo, real money — into the sea, because holding on to it would have caused them to _____.

The crew did everything right — cutting anchors, loosening ropes, raising the sail — and the ship still struck a reef, because some things are bigger than our best _____.

APPLICATION

Name one person drowning in their own storm this week — a divorce, a diagnosis, a debt. Go to them, skip the clichés, pray with them out loud, and point them to one next step.

II. Unlikely Mercy That Preserves the Powerless Acts 27:42–44 (ESV)

Under Roman law, a guard could suffer a prisoner's own punishment if he escaped, so the soldiers planned to _____ the prisoners.

The _____, “wishing to save Paul,” stopped the soldiers from carrying out their plan.

“And so it was that all were brought safely to land” wasn’t a lucky ending — it was a kept _____ (Acts 27:24).

God's deliverance in this passage worked through a whole _____ — soldiers, sailors, prisoners, and passengers — not a single hero acting alone.

APPLICATION

Ask God to open your eyes to His providence in the small, unplanned things around you this week — a phone call at the right moment, a door that closes so another opens. Write it down and thank God out loud.

III. Survivors as the Testimony *Acts 27:44 (ESV)*

Luke does not close the chapter on the wreck. He closes it on the _____.

The Greek verb behind “brought safely” is diasōzō, meaning to bring safely through, or to _____ completely.

Every survivor story in your life is a small rehearsal of the _____ — proof of how far God will go to keep His word.

APPLICATION

Write down your survivor story this week — the diagnosis, the divorce, the season that should've sunk you. Then say it out loud to someone. A private rescue means nothing until it becomes a public testimony.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Is there something I am still holding onto — a grudge, a habit, a way that used to work — that has become dead weight I need to let go of so I can keep trusting God? Where do I need bold, visible faith this week, even before I know how the story ends? Who around me needs me to be the calm, steady presence Paul was for that frightened crew?

Answer Key

I. Bold Faith in the Middle of the Wreckage.

prisoner | visible | sink |
strategies

II. Unlikely Mercy That Preserves the Powerless.

kill | centurion | promise |
community

III. Survivors as the Testimony.

headcount | rescue | gospel

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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