

Ministry of The Holy Spirit
Paul's Journey to Rome: The Ship
Acts 27:27-44

Last time...the Winds

Satan's goal: To keep us away from his territory, to push us off course

Satan's strategies:

1. Contrary winds
2. No wind
3. Deceiving soft wind
4. Violent wind for extended period of time

But God...He gives us peace and hope in the midst of every terrible storm

We left Paul and the others onboard the Alexandrian cargo ship being roughed up by a fierce storm

v14-26

This time...the Ship and the end of the voyage on this ship

v27-29 After 14 days (2 very difficult weeks) of

- being tossed around like a rag doll by violent winds and seas
- seasickness
- being “in the dark”, completely disoriented in terms of location and direction of travel
- eagerly waiting upon the Lord to make good His promise to Paul
- being driven up and down the Adriatic Seas (between Greece and Italy)

the crew...in the middle of the night...surmised that the ship was getting close to land

So they heaved overboard a heavy piece of lead secured to a very long rope and measured the depth of the water to be about 120 feet

A short time later the water was about 90 feet deep – they were indeed near land

With the water depth decreasing rapidly and the danger of being driven upon unseen rocks increasing, they “put on the brakes”, dropping the 4 anchors in the back part of the ship

With the wind howling and the seas roaring, but secure in place, everybody onboard the ship is longing for the break of day

In our journey to “a distant shore” during

- “the beginning of sorrows”
- the Days of Noah and the Days of Lot

and

In the midst of a violent storm of life or in a trial

- relational
- health
- financial
- spiritual

and

In daily living in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation

and

Resting in the promise of God yet still being buffeted by spiritual attacks,
are we not eagerly looking for

- SonRise!
- the Sun of righteousness to arise!

Mal 4:2 unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of
 righteousness arise

- the appearing of the Morning Star!

Rev 22:16 *I am the root and the offspring of David, and the
 bright and morning star.*

What is holding us in place until the rising of Jesus Christ to come again and receive us
unto Himself that where He is we may be also?

Perhaps the 4 anchors of the Ship

1. Matthew – Jesus is the Messiah, the son of David
2. Mark – Jesus is the Servant of God
3. Luke – Jesus is the Son of Man
4. John – Jesus is the Son of God

Jesus Christ is our Ship to that “distant shore” of heaven and the hope of
everlasting life in the presence of our Father in heaven

In our Ship we have an anchor of our soul in perilous times and in tribulations

Heb 6:17-20 Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the
 heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed
it by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which *it*
was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong
consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the
hope set before us: Which *hope* we have as an anchor of the
soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that
within the veil; Whither the forerunner is for us entered,
even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of
Melchisedec.

Back onboard the Alexandrian cargo ship,

v30 The crew has plans to “cut and run”

Using the pretext of also letting down the anchors in the front part of the ship, they were trying to sneak overboard with the skiff (life raft) to “abandon ship” and escape

Obviously, they were fending for themselves, acting to save themselves, not caring about the welfare of the others, even though they are “essential workers”, necessary for maintaining the safe operation of the ship

v31 Paul sees what they are up to and, turning to the military charged with protecting and delivering the prisoners to Rome,

- issues a warning
- makes a statement of fact that relates to v22-25
- declares God’s terms of “survival”
- succinctly preaches the Gospel

“Except all abide in the ship, ye (you plural) cannot be saved.”

The Ship is the Vessel of God’s

- promised salvation
- righteousness...acceptable/pleasing to God the Father

God is navigating the Ship to The Safe Haven

- no other haven is safe
- no other vessel is safe
- no other navigator can get the Ship to The Safe Haven
- His terms for “survival”:
1 Cor 2:2
1 Cor 15:3-4

The One and only Way to live (not perish, the 2nd death) is to abide in the Ship
Our life is “in Christ” and it is secure “in Christ”

Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

John 6:37-40 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

John 14:6

John 15:5 I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

John 3:16

Eph 2:8-9

1 Cor 1:30

Is 64:6

Heb 12:1-2 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Matt 5:20 For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

The sin that so easily besets us

us : Hebrews

that sin (in context of the epistle)

- standing on the keeping of the Law to be pleasing to God
vs standing in Christ Who is pleasing to God
- Works vs faith
- Self-righteous vs the righteousness of God

Rom 3:22 Even the righteousness of God *which is* by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe

Rom 10:3-4 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

Gal 1:6-9 Salvation by one's own works is a perversion of the Gospel of Christ

Self-righteousness is a vile affront to Jesus Christ

Gal 2:20-21 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness *come* by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

Gal 3:11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, *it is* evident: for, The just shall live by faith.

Gal 3:13-14 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that hangeth on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham (Gen 15:6) might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

“Except all abide in the ship, ye (you plural) cannot be saved.”

Back onboard the Alexandrian cargo ship, what happened?

v32 The soldiers, under the command of Julius who is now listening to Paul, cut loose
the skiff (the counterfeit life boat)
All are committed the Ship

If you have a counterfeit life boat in your life...a way of escape other than Jesus Christ...
you need to cut it loose.

It will not, cannot, save you from

- this or any other storm
- the 2nd death

Commit your life to the Ship that God is navigating to the “distant shore” of heaven!
Trust your eternal soul to Jesus Christ...in the “losing” of your life you will gain it
forever

v33-34 God promised there would be no loss of life even though the ship would be a total loss
The counterfeit life boat, which stood no chance of bearing up against the violence of
these winds and seas, has been removed as a deceptive temptation
The ship is close to the safety of land
No one has eaten anything in 14 days and physical strength is going to be needed when
the Son rises

So Paul, the servant of God, ministers to all onboard

“Please eat, it is for your health.

- physical well-being
- mental well-being
- rescue, safety, salvation

For not so much as one hair on any of your heads is going to be harmed.

Remember the promise of God, whose I am and whom I serve.

He has promised to save all of us in this ship.

He is going to deliver us from all harm.”

To eat would be evidence of faith/believing

John 6:48-58

v35-37 After so saying, Paul...did as he had said

Took bread...gave thanks...broke it...ate

Sound familiar?

Matt 26:26

Jesus took bread, and blessed *it*, and brake *it*, and gave *it* to the disciples, and said, **Take, eat; this is my body.**

Paul is leading the 276 others

- by following Jesus
- by example, being Christ-like

And the 276 others

- were encouraged, given hope and good cheer
“One more powerful than us and more powerful than this storm is on our side!”
Ps 104:14-15 (He brings forth)...bread *which* strengtheneth man's heart.
- followed by faith

In the terrible storm, our attitude should be as

1 Thes 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

After all, what impact does our attitude of thanks and hope have on

- our own outlook
- others
 - in the storm with us?
 - watching us go thru the storm?

Follow Jesus in/thru the storm, being His witness cheerfully enduring

- v38 When everyone had had their fill, they got about the business of getting to safety –
- relieving the unnecessary burden on the ship which is a hindrance to their salvation
 - throwing overboard the worldly profit (the cargo of grain)

The riches of the world stay in the world and go the way of the world – destruction by fervent heat

Worldly riches matter not in the matter of life and death...life is abiding in the Ship
Prov 11:4 Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death.

A choice must be made...and it was made
Matt 6:24

- v39-40 Finally!
Son rise!

By the precious light of day, commanded by the Creator God (Job 38:12),
the crew does not recognize the land to which they have been navigated by God
But, taking a survey, they notice a crick that just might accommodate the ship

Go time!
Raise the 4 anchors, release the rudder controls, hoist the mainsail!
And they let go..."committing themselves unto the sea."
No turning back!

In our storm,

- Satan is driving unto destruction
- God is navigating to safety/salvation

Commit yourself to the One who sets the boundaries of the seas (Ps 104:9)

- v41 The ship was navigated by God to where the Adriatic and the Ionian Seas meet
And there the ship encountered a sandbar
The front of the ship was stuck, immovable
The back part of the ship was ravaged by the violent waves and broken

Clearly, the crew's idea/will/way (v39) was not God's idea/will/way
His ways are not like our ways, they are so much higher!

So how is a broken Ship a higher way, a far better way?

Because the Ship gave Himself for the people God so loves

Gen 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

1 Cor 11:24 And when he had given thanks, he brake *it*, and said, **Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.**

Gal 1:4 Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:

Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

v42 The crew tried to save themselves by exercising their will in v30
Now the Roman soldiers try to save themselves by exercising their will

“We have to kill all the prisoners because they might escape...and we will bear the punishment for their crimes
(The Roman Empire’s way of “motivating” soldiers charged with guarding criminals of the Empire)

This Self-centered sentiment of man runs contrary to v24 and v34...the words of God

v43-44 But God...moves the heart of the centurion to preserve Paul’s and all the other prisoner’s lives

Instead, Julius given the commandment to his soldiers, the crew, and the prisoners:
If you know how to swim, get to land and secure a beach head.

The others went surfing on the waves of mercy of a Wonderful God

Result: Just as God said – v22, v24, v34
None were lost, as God had promised

At the start of this journey, there were 3 believers
One tempestuous and violent storm and a miraculous deliverance later,
how many believers are on board?
We shall find out when we are delivered to that “distant shore”

But we do know that none were...or will be...lost, as God has promised
All will escape to safety

1 Thes 1:9-10 ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, *even* Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

1 Thes 5:9-11 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another

Rom 5:8-9 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

1 Cor 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God *is* faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*.

With the great storms of life,

- the devil attempts to kill and destroy
- the Almighty God seeks to
 - destroy Self-righteousness
 - break our Self-confidence and build our Jesus-confidence
 - Phil 3:3 worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.
 - test and increase our faith in Jesus Christ, our Ship to that “distant shore”
 - draw others to Him by the witness (faith and hope) of His children

And the same applies trials aka teaching moments

Thursday July 6, 2023

a softball game against a very good team from Eloy

Dennis LePore worked very hard to field the best team he could

He invited me to play

Before every game I pray:

- Protect me – Achilles and throwing arm
- Help me – watch the ball all the way to the bat and into my glove
- Most of all, to be a good witness of you

Game 1: they beat us handily

Game 2: we are leading 10-7 going into the bottom of the last inning

I make 2 errors playing 2nd base, plays I would make 95x out of 100

The other team wins;

Absolutely true: Teams wins games and teams lose games

Also absolutely true: I am the reason our team lost, I let down my entire team

I was embarrassed and down cast...contrary and tempestuous winds were blowing

A while later, with a bunch of guys sitting around, I returned the team jersey to

Dennis and good-naturedly suggested that since I stunk it up so badly,

he should not wash the jersey but burn it!

And the guys got a chuckle.

Dan Z: I am very glad that happened. Because normally you make those plays.

And you are always a good witness of our Lord. Today, you made 2

costly errors and you were still a good witness of our Lord. It was the best thing that could have happened!

This is called iron sharpening iron

Then on the drive home the Lord spoke to me about getting overly Self-confident and that without Him I can do nothing.

So...PTL I was the bum...the Lord helped me with the most important thing!

1 Thes 5:18 easy when all is well

How about when all is not well?

That is when the heart and one's faith is tested...and seen

As in the Days of Noah: Get on the Ark/Ship!

As in the Days of Lot: Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

There are many false Ships in the world

Only the One True Ship will take you safely to that "distant shore!"

What goes overboard: How is the Lord working

1. A burden known only to God (Acts 27:18)
Hidden sin, known only by you and the Lord
2. Weighty parts of the vessel (Acts 27:19, Heb 12:1)
Sin in our life...and/or...things we attach great value to
3. The hope of unbelievers (Acts 27:20, Prov 10:28)
4. Panicked, fearful men (Acts 27:30, Rev 21:8)
Fear and faith are mutually exclusive, pick the one to walk by
5. The life boat ie. Self-willed contingency plan (Acts 27:32)
6. Concern (Acts 27:36, 1 Peter 5:6-7)
7. Profit (Acts 27:38, Matt 6:33, Matt 16:26)
8. Impartiality, apathy, complacency, comfort (Acts 27:40)
9. Self-will (Acts 27:40, Matt 26:36-44)
God's will, God's way
not God's will, my way or My will, God's way
10. The believers (Acts 27:43-44, Heb 11:6)
All you are, all you have, all you want to be...

Result

1. Grounded (Acts 27:41, Ps 40:1-2) on the Rock of our salvation
2. Broken (Acts 27:41, Matt 21:42-44) the vessel, us, is broken
3. Peace and safety (Acts 27:44, 1 Cor 10:13, John 16:33)
4. Comfort (Acts 28:2, 14-15, Matt 5:4, Acts 9:31)
5. Arrival at your destination (Acts 28:16)
6. Your calling, the accomplishment of God's perfect will (Acts 28:22-31)

The Lesson

1. Trust the Lord (Is 26:3-4, Ps 34:19, Ps 37:4-5, Ps 18, Ps 20:6-8, Nahum 1:7)
 - God knows what he is doing! And His plans have my best interests at heart
 - Worry: a lack of faith and in His promises of provision and protection
 - He is able, more than able
To accomplish what concerns me today
He is able, more than able
To make me what He wants me to be
2. New and improved model of servant (Phil 1:6, Rom 8:18)
How else can we expect to hear "well done, good and faithful servant"?
Trials define our Christian walk to test/prove/develop our faith
God has sovereign control over our lives
Seek God's face

3. Usually we have no idea who comes into a saving faith in Jesus via our trial

How many were saved:

- 275 sailors and soldiers?
- on Malta?

Your trial could be for someone else's eternal benefit, even a total

Stranger

In the circumstances of your trial, God touches another for all eternity

4. God is glorified

Every trial is a testimony waiting to happen, every testimony glorifies the Lord
we serve

the Lord uses even the enemy's best shot to glorify His Name and to accomplish
His will

Assurances

1. God's calling (Acts 23:11) is a certainty
2. Only the Ship is safe (Acts 27:31-36, Gen 6-8, John 15:4-6, 10)
3. God's Word will not fail (Acts 27:22-25, 1 K 8:56)