

RIDING THE STORM OUT

⇒ **Intro: Acts 27:13-44**

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- Paul's journey to Rome was filled with danger and the potential for destruction.
 - As they sailed toward Rome, their ship was engulfed in a tremendous storm and they all expected to die at sea.
 - Paul's experiences at sea stand as an example for you and me.
 - As we journey toward Heaven, we sometimes must sail over stormy seas.
 - Sometimes, the sailing is smooth, **v.13**.
 - Most of the time, it is not, **v.14!**
 - Often the storms that rock our lives seem to threaten the very foundations that we stand upon.
 - Many times, these storms cause us to become discouraged and to want to give up.
 - I believe there is help here for everyone who is sailing one of life's stormy seas tonight.
 - Let's look into these verses and find the help we need to ride the storm out.

⇒ **I.- v.13-20 A TIME OF DESPAIR**

- **A. v.13 Deception** –
 - Calm seas fool us into believing that the storms will not come.
 - But, the Bible says they will –
 - **Job. 14:1; 5:7.**
- **B. v.14-17 Disaster** –
 - When the severe storms come our way, we often feel as if events are out of our control, **v.15, 17**.
 - Many fall into discouragement and despair.
 - (Ill. Some of life's disasters)
- **C. v.18-19 Decision** –
 - The storm ought to make us take an inventory of our life and discard anything we do not need.
 - Ill. Nothing happens to a child of God that He has not allowed to grow us up in Him - **Rom. 8:28, 2 Cor. 4:17**.
- **D. v.20 Desperation** –
 - When there is no daylight in your darkness, you may get to the place where you want to lay down and die.

⇒ That is why the times of **DESPAIR** are also:

⇒ **II. v.29a A TIME OF DANGER**

- A. The stormy times that we encounter in life have the potential to either make us break us.
- They will either drive us to seek the Lord, or they will drive us away from Him.
- What happens in your life is your decision!
- B. Ill. Job.
 - His example is a good one for us. When he was squeezed by Satan, he shouted in the devil's face - **Job 1:20-22**.
- C. Simon Peter gave us an example that is to be avoided.

- When he was squeezed by life, he crumbled - **Luke 22:31-32; Matt. 26:69-75.**
- D. You will either grow stronger, or be dashed upon the rocks of bitterness and unbelief.
 - It all comes down to who or what you look to in times of trouble!
 - (Ill. Man - any man - will fail you, you must put your faith in God and Him alone!)
- ⇒ **III.v.21-44 A TIME OF DELIVERANCE**
 - Here is some positive help and hope for your storm!
 - **A. v.29b Get Anchored** –
 - Paul tells us they cast out four anchors to secure the ship.
 - They anchored their ship and were still terrified, Paul was not afraid.
 - The reason?
 - He was anchored deeper.
 - Notice four anchors that will hold you in any storm:
 - **1. v.23 The Presence Of God** - **Matt. 28:20; Heb. 13:5**
 - (Ill. The Disciples - **John 6:16-21.**
 - **2. v.24-25 The Promises Of God** –
 - His promises are steadfast and true - **Rom. 4:21.**
 - Notice what promises we have to assure of total security.
 - a. **Brighter Days** - Psa. 30:5
 - b. **Deliverance** - Psa. 34:19
 - c. **Everything is for our Good** - Rom. 8:18; 28; 32 Cor. 4:17
 - d. **Divine Grace** - 2 Cor. 12:9
 - e. **Ultimate Glory** - Rev. 21:4
 - Ill. His promises are based in and on His Word.
 - It is pure, inspired and will stand when the world is in flames, **Psa. 119:89!**
 - **3. v. 24 The Providence Of God** –
 - God was working out His plan in Paul's life and He is doing the same in yours!
 - It may be simple faith, but I still believe that God is Sovereign! **Psa. 57:1; Isa. 25:4.**
 - **4. v.44 The Performance Of God** –
 - Ill. Everyone made it safely to the shore.
 - Ill. God is able to work it all out!
 - He will get you through your storm and land you safely beyond it!
 - **B. v.30-40 Accept The Storm** –
 - Ill. These sailors listened to Paul and went on with life.
 - There comes a time when we have to surrender to the Lord's will and allow Him to have His way in us.
 - We can either bend under His hand, or he can break us.
 - The choice is entirely ours!
 - (Ill. You don't have to like, but you do need to submit to God in it - **1 Pet. 5:6; James 4:10.**)

- **C. v.41-44 Await Your Deliverance –**
 - Their storm ended, yours will too!
 - Either on this shore, or on that shore, but it will end.
 - Meanwhile, submit to the Lord, serve the Lord and know that you are going to make it, **1 Cor. 15:58!**
 - God has never and never will lose even one of His little children!

⇒ **Conclusion:**

- If your sea is rough tonight, I encourage you to cast your anchor upon the solid Rock and make your way to Jesus right now.
- He already knows about it, but He wants you to depend on Him for your need.
- Here is where storms are conquered. Won't you come?