

THE STORMS OF LIFE

Acts 27:13-44

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Introduction

Someone said, "***Tough times do not last; tough people do!***" A more Christian version might say, tough times do not last, but people with faith in the Lord do! We can outlast the storms of life and this passage gives us a little insight into how to do that.

Paul's journey to Rome was filled with danger and 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 are an example for you and me. As we journey through life, we sometimes sail over stormy seas. Sometimes, the sailing is smooth, **v.13**. Often it is not, **v.14**. The storms that rock our lives seem to threaten the very foundations that we stand on. Many times, these storms cause us to become discouraged and to want to give up. There is help here for everyone who is sailing one of life's stormy seas tonight.

I. v.13-20 STORMY TIMES ARE OFTEN TIMES OF DESPAIR

- A. v.13 **Deception**. Calm seas fool us into thinking the storms will not come. The Bible says they will (**Job. 14:1; 5:7; John 16:33; Eccl. 5:15-17**).
- B. v.14-17 **Disaster**. When 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.
- C. v.18-19 **Decision**. The storm ought to make us take an inventory of our life and discard anything we do not need (**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.

II. v.29a STORMY TIMES ARE TIMES OF DANGER

- A. Paul: The stormy times we encounter in life have the potential to make us or break us. They either drive us to seek the Lord or they drive us away from Him. What happens in your life is your decision.
- B. 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.

III. v.21-44 STORMY TIMES CAN BE TIMES OF DELIVERANCE

Here is positive help and hope for your storm....

- A. v.29b **Anchor your life**. Luke says they cast out four anchors to secure the ship. They anchored the ship and were still terrified, but Paul was not afraid. Why? He was anchored deeper; he was anchored higher. Four anchors that will hold you in any storm:

- 1. v.23 **The Presence Of God.** (**Matt. 28:20; Heb. 13:5**)
- 2. v.24-25 **The Promises Of God.** His promises are steadfast and true. He promises....
 - a. **Brighter days** - **Psa. 30:5**
 - b. **Deliverance** - **Psa. 34:19**
 - c. **Everything for our good** - **Rom. 8:18, 28; 2 Cor. 4:17**
 - d. **Divine grace** - **2 Cor. 12:9**

His promises are based in and on His Word which abides forever.

3. v. 24 **The Providence Of God**. God was working out His plan in Paul's life and He is doing the same in ours. It may be simple faith, but I still believe that God is Sovereign. (**Psa. 57:1; Isa. 25:4; Rom. 8:28; Jer. 29:11**)

4. v.44 **The Performance Of God**. Everyone made it safely to shore. 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**. The sailors listened to Paul and ate 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. (**1 Pet. 5:6; James 4:10.**)

C. v.41-44 **Await Your Deliverance**. Their storm ended, yours will too. Until it does, submit to the Lord, serve the Lord and know that you are going to make it (**1 Cor. 15:58**).

Conclusion

If your sea is rough, cast your anchor upon the solid Rock and tie yourself to Jesus. He already knows what you face, but He wants you to depend on Him for your need. In His presence is the place where storms are conquered.