**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Riding Out the Storm |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Acts 27:9-31 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #1908 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. The Book of Acts is a narrative which tells how the early church began to spread and of the missionary journeys of the apostle Paul.
   2. Acts chapter 27 tells of the apostle Paul aboard a ship which rides into the teeth of a ferocious storm, and it teaches us about riding out the storm.
   3. Why would God devote almost an entire chapter in the Bible to telling about a ship in the midst of a storm?
      1. Because it is more than history.
      2. The Holy Spirit uses this story to make an incredible illustration with a great spiritual application for all of us.
         1. Life is like a voyage; sometimes the sea is calm, the wind blows softly, the sun is shining, and you enjoy just sailing along.
         2. But sometimes the wind rises, the sky darkens, we find ourselves in the midst of a terrible storm.
      3. This chapter is an illustration of every human being sailing between two eternities: sometimes things are good and sometimes things are bad.
   4. In this particular story, the apostle Paul has been taken prisoner for preaching the Gospel of Christ, and they are taking him to Rome to be adjudicated.
      1. Paul was different than most of us who see difficulties in every opportunity; he saw opportunity in every difficulty.
      2. Paul took every opportunity and applied to it the Word of God and found ways to triumph.
         1. 2 Corinthians 2:14
   5. As we see what Paul did, we will learn what we can do to ride out the storms of life.
      1. Acts 27:20
2. the reason for these kinds of storms
   1. There are four basic kinds of storms in life that we all get into, whether saved or lost:
      1. The normal storms that come just because we’re part of nature.
         1. Matthew 5:45
         2. We live in a world that has both sun and rain, and all human beings will experience some storms just because we are here.
      2. Storms that we ourselves engineer by our foolishness and disobedience.
         1. Jonah got into this kind of storm when he tried to flee from the presence of the Lord and got out of the will of God.
            1. Jonah 1-2
      3. There are storms that God sends us in to for our development.
         1. Jesus once sent His disciples into a storm at sea because He was trying to teach them a lesson to help them grow in discipleship.
            1. Matthew 14:22-33
         2. Sometimes we do get into storms not because we’re out of the will of God, like Jonah was, but because we’re in the will of God.
      4. We get into some storms because we’re dragged into them by other people.
         1. Paul, a seasoned traveler who’d been through shipwrecks, knew that this ship ought not to sail and he tried to warn everybody, but they wouldn’t listen.
         2. As a prisoner guarded by a centurion, Paul had to go along and do what the higher power said.
            1. Many times we’re in storms and they’re not of our own making.

Little children are often dragged along into a storm because of ungodly or unwise parents.

We get into difficulty because of authorities that are over us.

America sometimes goes into storms because of bad leadership and we see ourselves sailing into judgment due to laws and rules made by Congress, the President or the judges.

* + - 1. Paul really didn’t want to sail, but he was at the mercy of others making the decisions.
         1. Acts 27:9-11

On one side is a man of the world, a businessman motivated by profit.

On the other side is the man of God with his spiritual radar.

The centurion decided to listen to the evidently successful ship owner rather than Paul, the religious fanatic prisoner.

* + - 1. The decision to sail was a grave mistake, and many of us today are in danger of making the same kind of bad decision which will lead us into a storm.
         1. Five ways to sink a ship (or five ways to make a bad decision):

Just make your decision in haste.

Acts 27:9

Some people make some of their biggest life decisions without waiting on real leadership from the Lord.

If you’re in the middle of a decision, wait on God and bloom where you’re planted until God moves you.

Don’t think that just because time is passing by you’ve got to do something. The Holy Spirit of God does not push. He leads, He guides, He doesn’t shove.

Depend upon worldly wisdom rather than godly wisdom.

Acts 27:11

Don’t go to the people of this world to find out what you should do.

Forsake any counsel that is not based on the Word of God.

Take the easy way out.

Acts 27:12

You’re almost always going to get into trouble if you make your decision based upon what would be easiest.

We’re called to endure hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ.

2 Timothy 2:3

So many people make their decisions led by sensual desires, driven by the flesh rather than being led of the Spirit.

Just follow the crowd.

Acts 27:12

The crowd outvoted Paul, but the majority is almost always wrong.

Twelve spies went to spy out the land in Joshua’s day. Only two said it could be conquered. The ten were wrong and the two were right.

The people of Israel voted for a king. They got Saul. God gave them what they wanted, but after a while they didn’t want what they got. The majority was wrong.

The crowds shouted for Barabbas to be released and for Jesus to be crucified. This most heinous crime was done at the will of the majority.

Do you know what the majority generally is? A lot of people pooling their ignorance.

Just depend upon circumstances.

Acts 27:13

They saw that the sun was shining, the sea was calm, the wind was blowing softly, and concluded, “It must be the will of God.”

That soothing south wind was soon to turn into a ferocious storm that would sink their ship.

1. the reactions to the storms of life
   1. Acts 27:14-21
   2. What happens when an ungodly person gets into a storm?
      1. Dreams dissolve
         1. The ship’s captain, the owner and the centurion were not as strong as they thought they were, and found themselves aboard a floundering vessel driven along by winds they could not control.
      2. Work increases
         1. Acts 27:16-19
         2. They began to labor with a desperate effort, trying to get it all back together.
         3. The devil will tell you it is hard to be a Christian; that is a lie.
            1. Matthew 11:28-30
            2. Proverbs 13:15
            3. Not that there is no discipline in being a Christian or hardships to endure, but grueling toil and laboring in desperation—that comes with sin.
      3. Resources are wasted
         1. Acts 27:18, 21
         2. Sin is one of the most costly things around.
         3. Everything they thought was so precious, they’re now throwing it overboard.
         4. The worldly man spends the first half of his life gaining his wealth, then spends the last half of his life spending his wealth to get his health back. He’s unhappy in both halves of his life, and what a colossal waste it is.
      4. Hope is lost
         1. Acts 27:20, 29
         2. They rejected God’s light and now they find themselves in darkness.
         3. The stars, the sun, the moon, the land—all of these things disappeared so they had no way to navigate, and their hopes all vanished as well.
      5. They get very foolish
         1. They begin to make foolish plans because they don’t have stars to steer by, so there is sort of an inner compass that takes over.
         2. Acts 27:30-31
         3. Some sailors were trying to sneak off the ship, demonstrating a form of escapism that was built upon selfishness.
            1. Examples of how people today try to escape storms they could have avoided:

Alcoholism

Divorce

Running away from home

Suicide

This is the ultimate act of selfishness and cowardice that never, ever solves a problem.

* + - 1. The world is full of desperate people hopelessly lost in the storms they were warned not to get in to.
  1. What happens when godly people get into storms?
     1. It is a blessing to see how the godly go through storms.
     2. Acts 27:22-25
     3. Two times, the apostle Paul announces, “Be of good cheer.”
        1. Some today think Christians don’t know what we’re talking about when we give a good message in the midst of the dark days that we’re in.
        2. There are three classes in America: those who are afraid, those who don’t know enough to be afraid, and those who know their Bible.
     4. Paul knew who he belonged to and that Jesus was with him on board that ship.
     5. Paul could have a smile on his face in the midst of the storm because he trusted in Jesus, who gave him songs in the night when he was in a dungeon at Philippi.
     6. Paul had the assurance of God’s promises, and we might even picture him walking the deck of that ship, quoting the reassuring Word of God.
        1. Psalm 107:23-30
     7. Being able to have hope and strength and be encouraged—that’s the difference in the reaction of those who know the Lord and those who don’t know the Lord when they get into a storm.

1. the result of the storms of life
   1. God’s plan was to get Paul to Rome to testify, and he did go to Rome.
      1. Acts 27:23-24
      2. Acts 23:11
      3. Acts 28:14
   2. This story is a great illustration in God’s Word showing divine sovereignty and human responsibility at the same time.
      1. It was not God’s plan that the ship set sail and ride into the storm.
      2. God’s ultimate plan was not thwarted by the ship sailing.
      3. What was on that ship:
         1. The apostle Paul
         2. Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians
         3. The Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts
         4. The sovereign will of Almighty God
      4. Every bad decision the people made could not overrule the will of God.
         1. We serve a mighty God, and where God does not rule, God overrules.
            1. Christians may fail, they may flounder, they may sin, but if they belong to Jesus Christ, there’s a sovereign power that says “One day My child will be just like My Son the Lord Jesus, and all Hell can’t stop it.”
            2. We are predestined to be conformed to the image of God’s Son.

Romans 8:29

* + - * 1. The church, founded by the Lord Jesus Christ, sometimes makes bad decisions, and many times we do things we shouldn’t do as a church, but God is building for Himself a bride and all Hell can’t stop it.

Matthew 16:18

* + - * 1. All of the rulers of this world and the people who are against our Lord, they make their laws against Him, rejecting His commandments, His Word, His morality; yet nothing will stop Jesus from ruling eternally.

Psalm 2

* + - 1. We are on the winning side. He cannot fail. He must prevail.

1. CONCLUSION
   1. There was a storm, but Paul believed God and said “Be of good cheer,” and they made it to Rome.
   2. The centurion believed the owner of the ship who was wrong to sail.
   3. All of life comes down to: who do you believe?
   4. Paul said I believe God. Don’t make a mistake of believing the wrong person or you may be engineering a storm that you’ll not like at all.
   5. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   6. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16