

"The Road to Rome"

Part 13

Acts 22-28

Introduction: Last week when we ended our study in Acts 27, we were right in the middle of the storm with Paul and all who were on the ship heading to Rome. God had reassured Paul that no one would die but they would experience shipwreck on an island. So, as we ended last week, we looked at three anchors that Paul had to survive a storm.

1. The anchor of identity.

Notice Acts 27:23

2. The anchor of service.

Notice Acts 27:23 again.

3. The anchor of trust.

Notice Acts 27:23-25

As we continue today, we will finish this chapter, and we shall see how to survive a shipwreck. Paul taught us how to survive the storms of life and the three anchors we considered give us stability in the midst of the storms we face. Sometimes the storms are so severe in life that we experience "shipwreck" as things around us begin to fall apart. We need to know how to face these times. Not all storms result in things falling apart but some do on occasion, and we need to be sure we are prepared.

➤ 4 Anchors to Survive a Shipwreck

Notice Acts 27:26-29

They have now been in the storm for 14 nights. Two full weeks of being tossed by the storm.

Application:

Sometimes storms can last for weeks or even years. Think about Joseph. He was given the dream from the Lord when he was 17 and he would be 30 years old when he finally arrived where God wanted him as he stood before Pharoah. That was 13 stormy years for Joseph. No matter how long the storm lasts we must keep in mind that God is in control of the wind and the waves, and He uses each and every day for His purpose. Again, I remind you that in Acts 27 in the midst of the storm all hope that they should survive was taken away.

Notice Acts 27:20

The storm took away all confidence in their power to save themselves. Might I remind you that they were now right where they needed to be. They had been stripped of all human hope. They were now ready to trust in the mighty power of God. They were at the end of their rope. This was when God gave Paul the message of hope that all would survive. God often takes us through storms to deepen our faith. He will allow us to try everything we can and when we finally come to the end and have no more strength or resources He will step in and demonstrate His power and wisdom. Sometimes we must be stripped of all self dependance so that we will turn to Him. God often will allow storms to strengthen our faith.

1 Peter 1:6-7

⁶ Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

⁷ That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

Hebrews 11:6

⁶ But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Illustration: Storms have proven to drive the roots of trees deeper into the ground thus making them stronger as each storm passes by. If trees grew tall with no storms their root system would be very shallow thus when a strong storm did

blow through, they would topple very easily. This is also true of our lives and the lives of our families. Storms are important. We want to shelter our children from the storms, but it is in the storms that they learn to trust in the power of God.

Getting back to our text, they sounded, and the water was 120 feet deep and the next time it was 90 feet. They were fearful of running aground, so they cast out 4 anchors. I want to consider 4 anchors we can see here.

➤ **Anchor #1 - Abide in the ship.**

Notice Acts 27:30-31

Verse 31 is very interesting.

Notice Acts 27:22

Paul made it very clear in verse 22 that there would be no loss of life. Then in verse 31 we see that all men had to stay in the ship and not take the lifeboat. These verses show clearly the responsibility of man. If the captain was a Calvinist, he would have said it makes no difference if you stay on the ship or not because God is going to save us all. Paul makes it very clear that all would be saved but they had to make the right choice to stay in the ship.

Application:

If we are going to stand strong in the shipwrecks of life we must abide in Jesus Christ.

John 15:1-5

I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

² Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

³ Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

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.*

It is our Lord who controls the storms.

Psalm 89:8-9

⁸ *O LORD God of hosts, who is a strong LORD like unto thee? or to thy faithfulness round about thee?*

⁹ *Thou rulest the raging of the sea: when the waves thereof arise, thou stillest them.*

Matthew 8:24-27

²⁴ *And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep.*

²⁵ *And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish.*

²⁶ *And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.*

²⁷ *But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!*

Let us abide (draw close in fellowship) before the storms and the shipwreck comes.

➤ **Anchor #2 - Abide with others.**

Along with staying on the ship the men had to also stay together so that they could work together. They had to work together to lighten the load on the ship.

Notice Acts 27:38

Application:

This is something that we discussed on Sunday evening. It is not good for us as believers to be alone. We need one another and we certainly cannot help to bear the burdens of others if we are not walking with them, neither can anyone help us

if we are not in fellowship with the body of Christ. The point we need to understand here is that there is strength when we are together with other believers. The Spirit bears witness with others.

Galatians 6:2

² Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

Hebrews 10:25-25

²⁴ And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

²⁵ Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

➤ **Anchor #3 - Get the proper nutrition.**

Notice Acts 27:33-38

These men had not eaten in almost two weeks and that was most likely due to being seasick. Paul knew they needed strength, and they needed to be refreshed so he strongly encouraged them to eat before the shipwreck.

Application:

It is vital for you and me to feed upon the Word of God before the shipwrecks ever happen. If we wait until things fall apart, we can be sure we will not be able to focus because our minds would be consumed with the shipwreck. The Word of God needs to be in our hearts before things begin to collapse around us. Might the Words of the Psalmist be our words.

Psalm 119:97-105

⁹⁷ O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.

⁹⁸ Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me.

⁹⁹ I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation.

¹⁰⁰ *I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts.*

¹⁰¹ *I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word.*

¹⁰² *I have not departed from thy judgments: for thou hast taught me.*

¹⁰³ *How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!*

¹⁰⁴ *Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.*

¹⁰⁵ *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*

➤ **Anchor #4 - Stay committed to God's will.**

Notice Acts 27:32, 40

The men cut the lifeboat loose and were committed to the sea just as Paul had advised. Cutting the lifeboat loose was giving up that which was forbidden.

Application:

If we are going to endure the shipwrecks we must be committed to the will, and the Word of God. We must trust Him as He leads us. Any backup plans must be cut loose because if we have them, we will fall back upon them.

Conclusion:

Notice Acts 27:41-44

All the men arrived safely on the shore and each in a different way. Some were swimmers and others needed something to assist them. This is a reminder that we do not all survive the shipwrecks the same way. God gets some through the wreckage by one means and some by another means. But it is by each one following the will and the Word of God. When the men reached the shore, they could only praise the Lord for they were powerless in the storm. Because of the storm and the shipwreck 276 men witnessed the power of God and God would show them more of His power and faithfulness by the time they reached Rome.