The Book of Acts Lesson 49

“Our Shelter in the Storm”

Acts 27:13-44

Introduction: Paul is on his way to Rome, after nearly two years of imprisonment at Caesarea, on an Egyptian wheat vessel with approximately 260 people on board. After they arrived at Crete, they left to travel to Phenice on the other side of the island. This trip from Fair Havens to Phenice should have taken between four to six hours. But sometimes, we face sudden and totally unexpected storms in life.

I. The Storm was Vehement

A. The Vicious Storm

1. A Change in the Wind.

a. As they started on their journey, the wind was pleasant.

b. Before long, the direction of the wind changed.

# c. A terrible storm came from the north wind.

2. The Biblical description.

a. The wind described as “tempestuous” is translated from the Greek word “Tuphonikos”

1) this is where we get the word typhoon

2) this storm was violent, like a whirlwind

b. The storm was called Euroclydon which means “a violent agitation.”

# c. This wind raised huge waves with the force of a typhoon.

3. An Unusual Situation.

a. Usually, when a ship is caught in a storm, the ship is turned to face the direction from which the storm is coming.

b. This storm was so strong, and the wind so powerful, that they had to finally turn the ship and let it drive with the wind and the waves.

# c. This ship was literally at the mercy of the storm.

4. The Power of a Storm.

a. Storms alter your course of life (v. 4-8)

b. Storms affect those who refuse to take caution. (v. 9-11)

1) Refusing to listen to the man of God leads to shipwreck.

2) God has had men who rose up betimes!

c. Storms arise suddenly! (v. 12-15)

d. Storms damage your ship.

1) Time must be spent strengthening the ship

2) This is called (frapping) (v. 16-17) Nehemiah 4

e. Storms make you realize what is most important (v.18-19)

f. Storms may last an extended time without light (v.20a)

g. Storms beat on you (v. 20b)

h. Storms rob hope (v. 20c)

1) Only hope of salvation is in God.

B. The Vulnerability of the Ship

1. They attempted to secure the ship.

a. They knew many facts and stories from past experiences and other’s tales.

b. They took several measures to try and keep the ship from coming apart from the beating of the storm.

2. Man’s philosophies will not help us with our need for salvation.

a. Science was not the answer (1 Timothy 6:20-21)

1) Most of what passes for science today is steeped in philosophy.

2) Many false theories are derived from evolution.

b. Philosophy will not provide truth. (Col. 2:8)

1) beware lest any spoil through philosophy

2) they are all after the tradition of men

# c. Religion cannot save. (2 Timothy 3:5-8)

1) having a form of godliness

2) they have no truth power

3. The men were perplexed.

a. Loss of direction.

b. Loss of morale.

# c. Loss of appetite.

II. Value of the Storm

A. It Clarifies Your Values

1. We belong to God

a. Your life does not belong to you.

b. Everything you are and have ultimately belongs to God

2. We are to serve God.

a. Stop griping and complaining about the storms in life

b. Use them as opportunities to focus on what is important.

# c. Allow them to improve your service to the Lord.

B. It Clarifies Your Vision

1. God will bring you through the storm.

a. Get a vision of the safety in Him.

b. Deepen your convictions in His truth.

2. God’s grace can help you maintain truth.

a. Some will disappoint you.

1) Be willing to forgive people.

2) Love them in spite of their failures.

b. Some will disagree with you.

1) The whole world is not against you.

2) Know that people have a right to disagree with you.

II. The Victory in a Storm

A. Victory in God’s Promises

1. When God gives a promise, it is certain and sure.

a. Paul had already claimed the victory before it came.

b. Why try and cast your own life boat when God has already promised deliverance?

2. Depend on God’s promises with everything, even your life.

B. Victory in God’s Protection

1. The centurion was willing to save Paul.

2. God took Paul from being a prisoner to being captain.

3. They all escaped safely to land.

C. Victory in God’s Peace

1. We have a strong reliance

a. Rely on God’s Presence (v23)

b. Rely on God’s Word (v22, 24)

# c. Rely on God’s Plan (v24a)

d. Rely on God’s Mercy (v24b)

2. We have a message of hope

a. To have Faith in the midst of fear (24-25)

b. To have Faith in while on the ship (31)

# c. To have Faith for physical needs (33-38)

Conclusion: Let Jesus be your shelter in the time of storm.