

SURVIVING THE STORM
Pt. 1: In The Eye Of The Storm
Acts 27:1-20

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The recent events of Hurricane Florence are yet again, another reminder of how severe storms can be.
- B. Most people do their best to avoid storms, even evacuating their homes if necessary.
- C. This morning let's consider what we can learn when we find ourselves in the eye of the storm.

EVERYONE HAS STORMS

- A. None of us are exempt from facing storms.
 - 1. Paul was on board a ship headed to Rome to appear before Caesar when he found himself in a severe storm (Acts 27:6-14).
 - 2. Truth: Facing the storms of life are not a matter of if, but rather a matter of when and how terrifying.
- B. Even if you follow God, you will experience storms (Jn. 16:33; 2 Cor. 11:23-28).
- C. Storms often come into our lives when we least expect it (Acts 27:13-14).
 - 1. Ignoring the warning of Paul, they probably felt good when the south wind blew gently.
 - 2. Very few who find themselves in a storm expect to be in the storm.

EVERY STORM IS DIFFERENT

- A. Storms come through no fault of our own (Acts 27:9).
 - 1. The storm Paul and the ship crew faced was out of their control. They did nothing to cause this storm.
 - 2. Sometimes good people are going to get sick and possibly even die; sometimes good people are going to lose people close to them.
- B. Storms come through the fault of others (Acts 27:10-11).
 - 1. Paul and the others would not have been in the storm if they had listened to Paul's advice.
 - 2. Sometimes the storms we face are a result of the actions/decisions of others (ex: children of divorce).
- C. Storms come through our own choices and decisions (Acts 27:12).
 - 1. It was beyond the point of safe sailing and yet, they made the decision to sail anyway.
 - 2. They made the choice to sail because they didn't want to spend the winter in Fair Havens.

EVERY STORM PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY

- A. Paul took on a leadership role when everyone else was afraid (Act 27:15-22).
- B. Paul used the current storm they were in to talk about his God (Acts 27:23-24).
- C. Paul used what he had learned in other storms to help these people through theirs (Acts 27:25).

CONCLUSION:

- A. Some of you find yourselves in the eye of a storm right now.
- B. Although every storm is different, every storm provides us with opportunities.
- C. How will you respond when you can't evacuate and must face the storm head on?