

Acts of Jesus, Lesson 55: Weathering the Storm

- ✚ **Acts 27:1-2** – So true of life isn't it? They planned to sail along a certain part of the coast, but it didn't work out that way.
 - ✚ What we plan and what turns out often are two different things, and the difference was a storm in our lives.
 - ✚ This storm on the ocean can give us insight into the storms of life that are sometimes far more violent.
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✚ **How do we weather the storms of life?**

- Paul is going to serve as an excellent model of how a believer endures and even triumphs over life's storms.
 - There are several things for us to notice about this storm that will help us see how God is working as we go through the storms of life.
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1. Notice the people around Paul, **Verses 1-2**; 3 people who play a role in Paul surviving the storm.
 - Julius the Centurion, **Verse 3**.
 - Aristarchus, a fellow believer who is believed to have been able to accompany Paul only by declaring himself as Paul's personal slave.
 - Doctor Luke, Paul's personal physician. He also is voluntarily with Paul throughout all of this.
 - Why do I point these out? They are evidence of God's provision for Paul's care.
 - When we go through a storm in life, we need to pay careful attention to those who come along side of us, they are often the clearest evidence that God is providing for us in the midst of our difficulties.
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2. Notice what they got rid of on this ill-fated trip: **Verses 15-19, 38**
 - They got rid of the same things that had meant so much to them the day before.
 - This is what storms do for us; they clear away things that we thought mattered but actually don't.
 - God is not the cause of all storms in our lives, but He does use all of them help us see what really matters.
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3. Notice what this storm does to and for Paul.
 - **Verses 9-11**, Paul's opinion matters little here, but when the storm comes things begin to change.
 - **Verses 20-26**, Now they are listening.
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- **Verses 30-36**, Paul has gone from being a know-nothing prisoner to essentially the captain of the ship!
 - All this because of the storm!
 - We are the light and salt of the earth, but the world doesn't know that.
 - We are the ones who have our ears tuned to the voice of the Almighty, but the world doesn't know that.
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- When things get dark and treacherous, they will know Whose we are.
 - You cannot see a flashlight during the daytime, but when it gets dark that same flashlight will seem super bright.
 - Storms bring a lot of darkness, but they also let us know where the real light is.
 - God used this storm to introduce Paul to the people on that ship and to introduce Paul to the people of that Island.
 - God wants to use the storm we are in or may be going through in the future to introduce us to the world we live in.
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