



WEEK 2

STORM STORY

Sailing into an Uncertain Future

Before very long, a wind of hurricane force, called the Northeaster, swept down from the island. The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and **were driven along**. Acts 27:14,15

THREE CRUCIAL QUESTIONS IN LIFE'S STORMS:

1. _____

We were hardly able to make the lifeboat secure, so the **men hoisted it aboard**. Then **they passed ropes under the ship itself** to hold it together. Because they were afraid they would run aground on the sandbars of Syrtis, **they lowered the sea anchor** and let the ship be driven along. Acts 27:16b,17

2. _____

We took such a violent battering from the storm that the next day **they began to throw the cargo overboard**. On the third day, **they threw the ship's tackle overboard** with their own hands. Acts 27:18,19

3. _____

When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, **we finally gave up all hope of being saved**. Acts 27:20

My _____ is not in the _____.

(Paul) "But **now** I urge you to **keep up your courage**, because not one of you will be lost; **only the ship will be destroyed**. Last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me and said, **'Do not be afraid**, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.' So **keep up your courage**, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island." Acts 17:22-26

QUESTION:

Am I an example of _____ or of _____?

VERSES ABOUT HOPE IN THE MIDST OF DESPAIR

My heart is breaking as I remember how it used to be: I walked among the crowds of worshipers, leading a great procession to the house of God, singing for joy and giving thanks amid the sound of a great celebration! Why am I discouraged? Why is my heart so sad? **I will put my hope in God!** I will praise him again—my Savior and my God! Psalm 42:4,5

We are merely moving shadows, and all our busy rushing ends in nothing... And so, Lord, where do I put my hope? **My only hope is in you.** Psalm 39:6,7

Let all that I am wait quietly before God, for **my hope is in him**. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress where I will not be shaken. Psalm 62:5,6

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

For discussion or personal reflection

1. In the crisis of the storm at sea, Paul reacted with hope, common sense, steadiness, and even thanksgiving. Most importantly, he encouraged everyone on the ship, since they were literally in the same boat. In what specific ways did Paul encourage the people on the boat? In what similar ways can you encourage some people today who are "in the same boat" with you?
2. What is a major storm you've sailed through in your life, before this current virus outbreak? What is a lesson you learned from that experience that can help you now?
3. How has God used a disaster in your past for good?
4. What are your answers to the three questions from the sermon: What can I do? What can I do without? Where is my hope?

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