

How could trusting in God's sustaining power impact your actions and emotions?

Thank God today for the gift of salvation through His son, Jesus. Pray for an awareness of His sustaining grace for your salvation and your daily life.

Friday

Please read Lamentations 3:22–26 & Acts 27:39–44. How do you see God's faithfulness to Paul (and those with him) in the Acts passage?

What impact do you imagine this event had on those travelling with Paul?

How does the Lamentations passage describe God's faithfulness and our response?

How does it impact you to know that God feels this way about you (even when you feel adrift!)?

Thank God today for His faithfulness to you. Pray that your faith will reflect His faithfulness.

Saturday

Please read Proverbs 16:9. As an exercise in faith today, get a piece of paper, write down the way you feel adrift in life and then write down this verse.

As you pray today, ask God to give you the courage to believe this verse is true! Please pray for the services this weekend. Pray that the dads will feel loved and honored and that everyone will be drawn to Jesus.



When You Find Yourself Adrift

ACTS 27:27–44
JUNE 8 & 9, 2013 • MARK SPURLOCK

On the fourteenth night we were still being driven across the Adriatic Sea, when about midnight the sailors sensed they were approaching land. They took soundings and found that the water was a hundred and twenty feet deep. A short time later they took soundings again and found it was ninety feet deep. **Fearing that we would be dashed against the rocks, they dropped four anchors from the stern and prayed for daylight.** *Acts 27:27–29*

In an attempt to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea, pretending they were going to lower some anchors from the bow. Then Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, “Unless these men stay with the ship, you cannot be saved.” So the soldiers cut the ropes that held the lifeboat and let it drift away. *Acts 27:30–32*

Just before dawn Paul urged them all to eat. “For the last fourteen days,” he said, “you have been in **constant suspense** and have **gone without food** — you haven’t eaten anything. Now I urge you to take some food. You need it to survive. Not one of you will lose a single hair from his head.” *Acts 27:33–34*

After he said this, **he took some bread** and **gave thanks to God** in front of them all. Then **he broke it** and began to eat. They were all encouraged and ate some food themselves. Altogether there were 276 of us on board. When they had eaten as much as they wanted, they lightened the ship by throwing the grain into the sea. *Acts 27:35–38*

When daylight came, they did not recognize the land, but they saw a bay with a sandy beach, where they decided to run the ship aground if they could. Cutting loose the anchors, they left them in the sea and at the same time untied the ropes that held the rudders. Then they hoisted the foresail to the wind and made for the beach. But the ship struck a sandbar and ran aground. The bow stuck fast and would not move, and the stern was broken to pieces by the pounding of the surf. *Acts 27:39–41*

The soldiers planned to kill the prisoners to prevent any of them from swimming away and escaping. But the centurion wanted to spare Paul's life and kept them from carrying out their plan. He ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and get to land. The rest were to get there on planks or on other pieces of the ship. **In this way everyone reached land safely.** *Acts 27:42–44*

In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps.
Proverbs 16:9

Join us for each message in An Unexpected Journey!

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| May 25–26 | Sailing Into Uncertainty — Acts 27:1–13 |
| June 1–2 | Surviving the Storm — Acts 27:14–26 |
| June 8–9 | When You Find Yourself Adrift — Acts 27:27–44 |
| NEXT WEEKEND June 15–16 | Pressing On Toward the Finish — Acts 28:1–16 |

Daily Meditations

Monday

Please read Acts 27:27–44. What strikes you most about this story from Paul's life?

In what area of your life do you feel adrift?

How does Paul's story challenge you? How does it encourage you?

Thank God today that He is with you at all times — even when you feel adrift. Ask Him to help you apply Paul's story to your life and grow your faith.

Tuesday

Please read Acts 27:30–32 & Philippians 2:3–8. When we feel adrift in our lives, we're often tempted to force ourselves back on the course. For each of the next three days we're going to see how people in this story did that — either for good or bad!

According to the passage in Acts, how did the sailors try to get back on course?

Write down at least three differences between the sailors' attitude and the attitude described in Philippians 2.

How do you struggle with wanting to "take" (even at the expense of others as in the Acts passage) when you feel adrift?

Write down one way you will apply the Philippians 2 attitude, especially in the area you feel like you're drifting.

Thank God today that He gave us Jesus as the ultimate example of giving. Pray that your life will follow His example and that you will have the faith to give instead of take.

Wednesday

Please read Matthew 6:25–34 & Acts 27:33–34. In this part of the Acts story, some of the people who were adrift were paralyzed by their anxieties — to the point they stopped eating. When's the last time the worries of life had you in "constant suspense"?

What reasons does Matthew 6 give you for not worrying?

Think about how you currently feel adrift or the worries you struggle with. How will you apply the encouragement of Matthew 6 to help you in this part of your journey with God?

Thank God today that He is your Provider and that He promises to provide for your needs. Pray about the things you are worrying about. Ask Him to give you the strength to leave your worries at His feet and live the day in confidence that He knows all about your needs and fears.

Thursday

Please read Luke 22:19, 24:30 & Acts 27:35–38. The apostle Luke (who wrote both the Gospel of Luke and Acts) uses the exact same wording in these passages — what do you think he wanted to communicate in doing that?

How could understanding that it is God who provides both your daily bread (to sustain you physically) and the "bread" of His son's broken body on the cross (to save and sustain you spiritually), help you when you feel adrift?



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but the LORD determines his steps.
Proverbs 16:9