

## Trusting During the Storm - Part 3

TRUSTING WITH ALL MY HEART Acts 27:18-25

### STIMULATE

\*\* In part two of "**Trusting During the Storm**", we learned five divine attributes of our Lord Jesus Christ, do you recall what those were?

His divine; 1) **Authority** 2) **Knowledge** 3) **Protection** 4) **Love** and 5) **Power**.

\*\* What was the secret of continued obedience in the area of trust, even when the storm is raging?

We can always trust Him because of who He is, not because of who we are!

\*\* And what practice were we to stop, in order to avoid the temptation to give up?

The practice of doubting! Instead, we are to ask the Lord for wisdom during the storm.  
Remember - James 1:5

### MOTIVATE

\*\* In this third study on "**Trusting During the Storm**", we are going to see our ultimate resource in this life! What is it that we as Christians today should be listening to? From where should we gain the basis for our hope and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ?

For the answer, please join me in Acts 27:18-25.  
Let's see how the apostle Paul endured his storms.

Read passage (V.18-21) (V.22-25)

Opening prayer

### *Trusting with all my Heart*

### INVESTIGATE

\*\* While we are studying just eight verses today, it is important to have some background understanding to the events that lead up to this storm. Please join me in Acts, chapter 22 and we will take a jet tour of the six chapters which develop for us the scenario that Paul finds himself in at this point in time.

### BACKGROUND TO THE STORM

**Chapter 22:1-3** - Paul gives his testimony to a Jewish crowd in the town of Jerusalem.

**22:21-22** - The crowd has a violent response to his message and wants to take his life.

**23:12** - After making his defense before the Council (Sanhedrin), the Jews plot to kill the apostle Paul by ambush.

**23:22-26** - The Roman commander sends Paul, under protective custody, to the governor of that region, named

Felix.

**24:26-27** - Paul remains in prison for two years and frequently shares his faith with Felix. Then Festus succeeds Felix.

**25:4** - Festus continues to protect Paul (Check the map in the back of your Bible)

**25:7-12** - Paul appeals to Caesar.

**25:24-27** - Festus tells King Agrippa that Paul is innocent. (This is King Agrippa the second, the son of Herod Agrippa who had John the Baptist beheaded in Mark 6:14-29. He ruled in the area from Caesarea Philippi to the north, down through Galilee, Samaria and all of Judea during the years of 52-70 AD).

**26:1-32** - Paul's defense before King Agrippa

**26:30-32** - Paul is found innocent, **again**.

**27:1** - **Our journey begins...**

**27:3** - First stop, Sidon. (Check the map in the back of your Bible)

**27:5** - Next, Myra in Lycia

**27:7** - On to Cnidus (ni-dus), then the Island of Crete via Salmone.

**27:8** - Next came Fair Havens and the city of Lasea.

**27:9-10** - Paul warns of the seasonal dangers of traveling through these waters. This is October 5th, the fast of Yom-Kopur.

**27:11-12** - The majority decide to try and reach Phoenix, to spend the winter there.

**27:20** - The storm is intense and they have abandoned all hope of survival.

**27:27-34** - After fourteen days and nights in a storm-raged sea, they surmise that they are near land, and Paul encourages them to eat.

**27:42-44** - After the shipwreck, the soldiers plan on killing the prisoners, but Paul has won the heart of the centurion and all "were brought safely to land".

**28:1** - They land on Malta (lit. - a place of refuge/protection).

**Back in chapter 27:**

**V.18** \*\* OK then, with that background understanding, look with me back at verse 18. How would you measure the intensity of this storm?

It was violent! cf. V.14 Euraquilo, Typhoon Euros (Gk)-Eastwind, Aquilo (Latin)-A Northwind, out of Asia Minor. (Crete's Elevation is 7000') Like our storms that throw us out of control!

\*\* What were the men willing to give up, in order to save their lives?

The cargo. If getting rid of earthy goods would increase their chances for survival, they would gladly "jettison" any attachment that they had to it.

**\*\* How would this value system serve to reduce the impact of our storms?**

If we hold lightly to our earthly treasures, it will be of little consequence to us if we should lose them. The storms will draw us closer to the Lord and we will not care about any earthly loss.

**V.19 \*\* What was next to go as the storm raged into its third day?**

The ship's tackle! With their own hands they threw away the equipment needed to guide the ship. They were very desperate!

**V.20 \*\* How did these sailors guide or navigate a ship in the open waters of the sea?**

By the position of the sun, moon and stars.

**\*\* Do you think that they knew where they were?**

No, for many days they had not seen any of them.

**\*\* What was the only conclusion left to them, while being completely lost with no knowledge available to correct the situation?**

They were not going to be saved!

**\*\* Can we get this hopeless during the storms of our life?**

Yes we can, if we take our eyes off of the light of His Word, which is designed to navigate our way through the trials of life.

**V.21 \*\* What natural response does the human body have to the fear that is produced by terrorizing circumstances?**

The loss of appetite! "...they had gone a long time without food..."

**\*\* Is Paul resorting to an "I told you so"?**

No, he is reminding them of the warning that he had given them back in verse 10, so as to establish his authority for what he is about to say.

**V.22 \*\* How does Paul display his Christ honoring love and care for these fearful sailors?**

He says, "...I urge you to keep up your courage"

**\*\* What is the reason for his hopefulness?**

"...there shall be no loss of life among you, but only the ship..."

**V.23 \*\* How does Paul use this life-threatening storm as an evangelical tool?**

He declares to the men that God, "whom I serve" had sent a message to him.

\*\* How can we use our storms as a witness to those around us?

To the unsaved, we can show them our trust, which can open their eyes to their need for Him as well. cf. Matthew 5:16

To the saved, we prove to be an example which builds up our brothers and sisters in their faith. cf. Philippians 1:12-14

**V.24** \*\* What was the three part message given Paul by the angel?

- 1) Do not be afraid! (That is why Paul could tell the men to keep up their courage).
- 2) You must stand before Caesar. (This re-affirms the promise made back in chapter 23:11 when Jesus appeared along side of Paul in Jerusalem and said, "Take courage; for as you have solemnly witnessed to My cause at Jerusalem, so you must witness at Rome also").
- 3) God has granted you all those who are sailing with you. (Remember there were 276 people, all of whom were to arrive safely! cf. V.37 with V.44)

**V.25** \*\* What is the "therefore", there for, at the beginning of this verse?

Since Paul warned them to not travel at this time of year because of great loss, and it turned out like he had warned; and since God had given him a message via an angel, there was only one thing to do..."Therefore, keep up your courage, men..."

\*\* What phrase does Paul use to display the fact that he was "**Trusting with all his heart**" during this storm?

"...for I believe God..." - Sometimes it just comes down to that!

\*\* How does that phrase fit your walk with the Lord, as you encounter the various storms in life? Do you find that you believe what God has said through His word, or do you take your eyes off of Him just to be fear stricken by the size of the storm?

\*\* Specifically, what was it that Paul believed?

"...that it will turn out exactly as I have been told..."

\*\* Did it?

Absolutely yes! The ship was wrecked by the storm (V.41), but all were saved (V.44).

## **EXTRICATE**

\*\* What were some of the reactions displayed by the sailors, to the storm that threatened their life?

- 1) They jettisoned their worldly goods. (V.18)
- 2) They threw away the "tackle" needed for guiding the ship. (V.19)
- 3) They abandoned all hope of survival. (V.20)

4) They lost their appetite. (V.21)

### **DELINEATE**

\*\* How was Paul's reaction different?

- 1) He was not afraid, thus the instruction to avoid becoming fearful like the others on the boat.
- 2) He was convinced of the sovereignty of God and knew that he was to go to Rome, because of the Lord Himself giving him instructions back in chapter 23:11.
- 3) He was "**Trusting with all his heart**" and boldly proclaimed to the unsaved world around him, "I believe God".
- 4) His belief was not just in the generalities of life but in every detail turning out in the very center of God's will.

### **EVALUATE**

\*\* What advantage did Paul have for remaining calm in the midst of this storm?

God Himself had told Paul what was going to happen!

\*\* Paul said that "it will turn out exactly as I have been told". What is it today, that we as Christians should be listening to, so we can experience the same kind of trust?

The word of God! We too "have been told" of the many and varied promises of God. Our hope and trust must be based upon who He is and what He has said about our lives.

Psalms 56:4 - In God, whose word I praise, In God I have put my trust; I shall not be afraid

Psalms 119:42 - So I shall have an answer for him who reproaches me, for I trust in Thy word.

### **ACTIVATE**

Lord, no matter how violent the storm, even if my ship is sinking or becomes shipwrecked, my hope and trust will be stayed upon Thee. Lord help me to know and live the riches found in Your precious word.

Closing Prayer