

on a voyage

2018 NATIONAL WOMEN'S MINISTRIES DAY: SUGGESTED SERMON OUTLINE

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Introduction

Life is like a journey on the sea. It is filled with exciting adventures! It also includes important but mundane maintenance. We can experience sickness and danger, as well as encountering storms. God promises to lead us throughout our life voyage.

Join me as we take the journey with Paul, Luke, and Aristarchus through Acts chapter 27. Let's see what we can glean for our own life's journey from this biblical and historic voyage.

1. WHO IS AT THE HELM OF THE SHIP?

Paul embarks on a voyage through no choice of his own. He was delivered into the hands of others, (Acts 27:1-2), who then made the decision and chose the voyage. Paul was under the authority of a Roman centurion, bound for Rome.

- A.** Sometimes our circumstances look like others are guiding the ship. If we surrender to the Lord, He will ultimately be at the helm and will guide our journey.
- B.** God made sure Paul had support—other believers who were friends, journeyed with him in this voyage. He'll do the same for us.

2. HARBORS OF REST

A ship is not always on the sea. At times it is necessary to draw into the harbor for a time of rest. God knows perfectly when we need to draw away with Him. Paul was given a respite from the voyage (Acts 27:3). Julius, the centurion, allowed Paul to go ashore and be with friends who would provide for his needs.

- A. Jesus regularly sought time away from ministry to be with God. He needed to refresh His soul and fortify His spirit. If Jesus found these harbor times necessary, how much more must we? We must have regular time away from demands and needs of others to be at our best.
- B. God provides refreshing through our relationships with others. We need our friends. We are better together. Sometimes I am in need of “harbor ministry,” at other times I need to provide the “harbor ministry” for others.
- C. We aren't created to avoid the voyage and to stay in the harbor. We are designed to engage in the journey, not run from it. I need to “put out to sea” again, (Acts 27:4), even if the winds are against me.

3. WHEN THE STORM COMES, GOD IS BIGGER AND HE IS FAITHFUL

Some storms are obvious as we head into them. We can see it ahead and brace ourselves for it. Other storms start with a gentle wind (verse 13) and turn into hurricane force, completely surprising us. God is not surprised or taken off guard by any turn of events. He is our source of wisdom and strength.

- A. Some storms make progress slow and difficult. We must press in deeper to God, trusting Him to lead us continually.
- B. Sometimes we need to “jettison the cargo” in our lives (verse 18). What is impeding your journey that God is asking you to throw overboard?
- C. To whom do we listen in the midst of our storms? What voice guides us? Our own heart wants to take control. Others may offer opinions. The enemy may whisper ideas. Our Captain's voice is what we need to brave and triumph over the storms.

4. STORMS REPOSITION US.

- A. When times get challenging, the storm can open our heart to the truth and power of God.
- B. On the other side of the storm, we'll not be where we began the journey. Storms are difficult, but they move us to a new place. When we cling to God and trust Him for the journey, we stay on the right course and live the right life.
- C. The storm can actually be the catalyst for a new assignment. *In a moment, Paul, the captive, became Paul, the commander* (verses 21-26; 31-32; 33-36)!

