

Hope in a Hurricane - Encouragement for the Storm - July 7, 2021

Acts 27. Story of the Apostle Paul in a hurricane.

Happened in Oct, A.D. 59. Sailing to Italy w/centurion Julius.

-- Sailing was dangerous – no compass, navigated by stars. Difficult.

-- Land in Fair Havens, but it was “unsuitable” for winter; majority wanted to try to reach Phoenix to winter there.

-- Paul warns the “voyage will be disastrous.” Overruled. (vs. 10-12)

■ Often we press on, driven by desire (greed). **Q-** willing to **trust** God?

-- Sailing along Crete, meet Hurricane force winds; Nor-easter.

-- lower sails, driven by the wind. Day 2 – threw cargo overboard.

-- Day 3 – threw ship’s tackle overboard.

- Vs. 20 – they “gave up all hope of being saved.” **Paul encourages** them by telling of an angel who appeared. “Keep up your courage.”

- 14 days later, drop 4 anchors to prevent hitting the rocks. **Paul encourages** them to eat. Need it to survive; none “will lose a single hair.”

-- Cut anchor ropes, hoist the sail to head for a beach ... run aground.

Soldiers want to kill prisoners to prevent swim-escape. Julius saves Paul.

All reach land safely – island of Malta.

Little difference between storm at sea & storms in our lives. Helpless.

Sometimes we are in storms to help others.

Everyone is fighting some battle. People need encouragement. That you?

Let there be something in this for you, Jesus.

Discouragement is one of the Enemy’s greatest tools.

Can’t encourage until we’ve learned God’s faithfulness.

Paul had lost hope, too . . . Angel came, “do not be afraid.”

God doesn’t always stop storms, He uses them for good.

Don’t try to pray away every difficulty. Let your Shepherd lead you thru...

Sometimes the storms help us.

SONG of the WEEK - “Till the Storm Passes By”

Re-Open for Worship – 7-14-21. Stay positive. Test negative. Vaccinate!