



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Genesis Sermon Series

Supports Session 2: Guidance Needed

Sermon Title: “Trusting God in the Torrential Storms” (Acts 27:13-26)

Connection to Session 2

Just as Abraham trusted God to provide a wife for Isaac in Genesis 24, the apostle Paul trusted God to carry him safely to Rome. He was so confident in God’s promise that he had no fear of a terrible storm. Are you willing to trust God even when things look bad?

Introduction/Opening

People are often fascinated by stories of the sea. They invariably involve danger and adventure, and people find them intriguing. In the book of Acts, we read a true story of a sea voyage, yet the hero who stands out is not the captain or one of the sailors, but the apostle Paul! When others were at the point of despair, Paul was calm. Why? For one thing, this wasn’t the first time Paul had faced danger on the high seas. More importantly, he knew God was still in control, and he knew God would keep His promise to bring him safely to Rome. Do you have that kind of faith? Are you willing trust God even in the most dangerous situations?

Outline

1. A foreboding trip (vv. 1-12).

- a) From the beginning, it proved to be a rough voyage.
 - i. They had to sail along the northern coast of Cyprus (that is, between Cyprus and the mainland) because “the winds were against us” (v. 4).
 - ii. At Myra, they boarded an Alexandrian ship that was sailing to Rome. This ship had likely been blown off course by the rough winds.
 - iii. By the time they arrived at Fair Havens on the island of Crete, the Day of Atonement had already passed.
- b) Paul had traveled these seas before, and he warned the others on board it was too dangerous to sail.
 - i. Sea travel became much more dangerous in September, and it ceased altogether from November until around February or March.
 - ii. The captain wanted to sail to Phoenix, which was a better place to spend the winter. The Roman centurion agreed (vv. 11-12).
- c) Just as Paul’s voyage was filled with danger, life in this world is often dangerous.
 - i. It can be going smoothly one minute, but then everything spins out of control the next.
 - ii. Sometimes the trouble results from our own bad judgment, and other times it is due to circumstances beyond our control.

iii. The consequences are often devastating.

2. A fearsome tempest (vv. 13-20).

- a) The voyage went smoothly at first, but then a violent storm arose (vv. 13-14). The crew did their best to keep the ship close to the shore, but the wind was too strong for them (v. 15).
- b) The storm got worse instead of better.
 - i. They threw the ship's tackle overboard to lighten the load (v. 19). Scholars believe this refers to furniture or equipment that wasn't absolutely necessary.
 - ii. They could see neither the sun nor the stars (v. 20a). Sailors depended on the heavenly bodies to get their bearings.
 - iii. Even the ship's crew thought it was hopeless (v. 20b).
- c) Have you ever been in a situation where it seemed there was no way out?
 - i. People try to encourage you, but their words seem like empty clichés.
 - ii. In such situations, it's easy to wonder if life is worth living.

3. A faithful trust (vv. 21-26).

- a) Paul knew God was still in control.
 - i. He had warned them of the danger, but they hadn't listened (v. 21).
 - ii. He assured them that, though the ship would be destroyed, not a single person would be lost (v. 22)
- b) An angel of the Lord had appeared to him that night and reassured him that he would reach Rome safely (vv. 23-25).
 - i. The same God, who was with Paul, is with you.
 - ii. Life will not always be easy (it wasn't for Paul). But, God will be with you and bring you through it.

Conclusion

He leadeth me! O blessed thought,
O words with heav'nly comfort fraught;

Whate'er I do, where'er I be,
Still 'tis Christ's hand that leadeth me.

He leadeth me! He leadeth me!
By His own hand He leadeth me;

His faithful follower I would be,
For by His hand He leadeth me. ¹

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1. Joseph H. Gilmore, "He Leadeth Me." Public Domain.