



**Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 85 “Lost at Sea!”
By Pastor Jody May 06/30/2024**

Acts 27:1-44 ESV

27 And when it was decided that we should sail for Italy, they delivered Paul and some other prisoners to a centurion of the Augustan Cohort named Julius. ² And embarking in a ship of Adramyttium, which was about to sail to the ports along the coast of Asia, we put to sea, accompanied by Aristarchus, a Macedonian from Thessalonica. ³ The next day we put in at Sidon. And Julius treated Paul kindly and gave him leave to go to his friends and be cared for. ⁴ And putting out to sea from there we sailed under the lee of Cyprus, because the winds were against us. ⁵ And when we had sailed across the open sea along the coast of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we came to Myra in Lycia. ⁶ There the centurion found a ship of Alexandria sailing for Italy and put us on board. ⁷ We sailed slowly for a number of days and arrived with difficulty off Cnidus, and as the wind did not allow us to go farther, we sailed under the lee of Crete off Salmone. ⁸ Coasting along it with difficulty, we came to a place called Fair Havens, near which was the city of Lasea. ⁹ Since much time had passed, and the voyage was now dangerous because even the Fast was already over, Paul advised them, ¹⁰ saying, “Sirs, I perceive that the voyage will be with injury and much loss, not only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our lives.” ¹¹ But the centurion paid more attention to the pilot and to the owner of the ship than to what Paul said. ¹² And because the harbor was not suitable to spend the winter in, the majority decided to put out to sea from there, on the chance that somehow they could reach Phoenix, a harbor of Crete, facing both southwest and northwest, and spend the winter there.

The Storm at Sea

¹³ Now when the south wind blew gently, supposing that they had obtained their purpose, they weighed anchor and sailed along Crete, close to the shore. ¹⁴ But soon a tempestuous wind, called the northeaster, struck down from the land. ¹⁵ And when the ship was caught and could not face the wind, we gave way to it and were driven along. ¹⁶ Running under the lee of a small island called Cauda, we managed with difficulty to secure the ship's boat. ¹⁷ After hoisting it up, they used supports to undergird the ship. Then, fearing that they would run aground on the Syrtis, they lowered the gear, and thus they were driven along. ¹⁸ Since we were violently storm-tossed, they began the next day to jettison the cargo. ¹⁹ And on the third day they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands. ²⁰ When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope of our being saved was at last abandoned.

²¹ Since they had been without food for a long time, Paul stood up among them and said, “Men, you should have listened to me and not have set sail from Crete and incurred this injury and loss. ²² Yet now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. ²³ For this very night there stood before me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship, ²⁴ and he said, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you.’ ²⁵ So



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take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told. ²⁶But we must run aground on some island.”

²⁷When the fourteenth night had come, as we were being driven across the Adriatic Sea, about midnight the sailors suspected that they were nearing land. ²⁸So they took a sounding and found twenty fathoms. A little farther on they took a sounding again and found fifteen fathoms. ²⁹And fearing that we might run on the rocks, they let down four anchors from the stern and prayed for day to come. ³⁰And as the sailors were seeking to escape from the ship, and had lowered the ship's boat into the sea under pretense of laying out anchors from the bow, ³¹Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, “Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved.” ³²Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the ship's boat and let it go.

³³As day was about to dawn, Paul urged them all to take some food, saying, “Today is the fourteenth day that you have continued in suspense and without food, having taken nothing. ³⁴Therefore I urge you to take some food. For it will give you strength, for not a hair is to perish from the head of any of you.” ³⁵And when he had said these things, he took bread, and giving thanks to God in the presence of all he broke it and began to eat. ³⁶Then they all were encouraged and ate some food themselves. ³⁷(We were in all 276 persons in the ship.) ³⁸And when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship, throwing out the wheat into the sea.

The Shipwreck

³⁹Now when it was day, they did not recognize the land, but they noticed a bay with a beach, on which they planned if possible to run the ship ashore. ⁴⁰So they cast off the anchors and left them in the sea, at the same time loosening the ropes that tied the rudders. Then hoisting the foresail to the wind they made for the beach. ⁴¹But striking a reef, they ran the vessel aground. The bow stuck and remained immovable, and the stern was being broken up by the surf. ⁴²The soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners, lest any should swim away and escape. ⁴³But the centurion, wishing to save Paul, kept them from carrying out their plan. He ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and make for the land, ⁴⁴and the rest on planks or on pieces of the ship. And so it was that all were brought safely to land.

[READ THE TEXT]

Pastor – “People of God, this is the Word of God.”

People – “Thanks be to God.”

[PRAY]



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[INTRO. & BACKGROUND]

Paul even though not charged with any crime against the Jews by declaring he wants to appeal to Caesar has decided to keep his chains. He's not a free man any longer. God's path to Rome for Paul meant he would do so as a prisoner of the state.

I thought about that this past week in light of our first presidential debate. You may not like your country's current policies, you may not respect your government's officials, but we all are under their thumbs. This too is the will of God; it is the path that has been chosen by our Lord for us, that we might shine in a time just like this. If that is true then to complain too much about our state of captivity under foolish leaders we miss our opportunities, to help those the best we can around us that are in bondage as well to this world. I am not saying don't vote and don't speak your mind but seriously don't check out on your country, don't wash your hands and put yourself away in your home like a hermit. The people of this land need the church, they need her leadership, and they need her care in a time of unrest and distress.

In this amazing story of being **“Lost at Sea”** today you will see several principles of Christian leadership displayed by the Apostle Paul that ended up saving all 276 persons on this tumultuous voyage (v.37). By keeping his cool, not getting mad at his captors, and remembering to honor God in all things, not only was he saved but he saved those lives around him.

MP:

**When tribulations in life come, lead by displaying
your belief in a Savior that controls the storm.**

Let me remind us of a particular story that teaches us about God's power over nature and God's movement through providence.

Mark 4:35-40 ESV

³⁵ On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” ³⁶ And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat,



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just as he was. And other boats were with him. ³⁷ And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. ³⁸ But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” ³⁹ And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰ He said to them, “Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?” ⁴¹ And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

The **Master of the storms of life**, has the power to control, has the power to make things be still, but instead many times allows His disciples to fight through their fears so that they **learn to trust Him**, and learn about **His power over this world**. Storms come in life because they are gateways for God to do miraculous works of Saving. In the very next scene, in [Mark 5:1-19](#), Jesus sets a crazed demoniac (Legion) free from His captivity.

Storms get us to our destination of trust in Jesus, so we learn to trust Him for that’s when He starts doing the work of saving people. People get scared in storms but **when you remember** what you have learned in times of stress and believe in Him family, **people will respond to your leadership** in times of crisis and will look favorably at God’s invitation for Salvation. **How you view God in turbulent times teaches people how they should view God.**

Now back to our story that is going to take us out into uncharted waters. How did Paul end up for what is for many of us, a nightmare of a time!

Well Paul is getting his chance to go to Rome, but the quickest route is by sea. Back then to sail to Italy it would have taken just over 2 weeks. This trip took these men over four months, that tells you that yes indeed God was interfering with this process. Although he is a prisoner, Paul does get to take some friends along. We see Luke is along for the ride, “*that **we** should sail for Italy*”, and a man named Aristarchus in v. 2. You may remember him from Acts 19:29 when there was a riot in Ephesus because Paul had turned the town of the Devil into the Christian capital of ancient Asia. They hauled Aristarchus in front of the mob in the theater at Ephesus to use him as a scapegoat. He



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was saved by the mayor of that town when they were warned that their behavior would garner the wrath of the Romans.

The men on the ship are led by a Centurion, a leader of a hundred, by the name of Julius. Julius was a part of the imperial guard of Caesar and oversaw grain delivery to Rome itself. We see in v.6 they stop off at a port called Myra, where they transfer to a ship that was carrying a grain shipment from Alexandria in Egypt. In that day Egypt was the main grain provider for the capital of Rome. The Centurion with a full 100 men escort would be a sign to all others thinking about stealing or pirating to keep away upon pain of death. This is a large seaworthy vessel transporting a large cargo, multiple passengers, crew, prisoners, and military transport of almost 300 people.

Although Julius’ main job was protection of the cargo, he was still kind to Paul and his men, and even at their first stop at Sidon allowed these men to visit with the Christian community there. This speaks large volumes as to the type of man Paul was. He must have garnished a good rep while staying in Caesarea and has already impressed Julius with his demeanor.

While traveling from the start though they were plagued with the winds that already started to work against them at this time of year. You see it was getting late in the season and according to v.9 “*The Fast*” was over, that was the holiday of **Yom Kippur** which transpired on Oct 5 in AD 59. Here’s what you need to know, just like in the Atlantic, winds coming off of Africa can be deadly between the months of June to October. In much the same way you didn’t sail the Mediterranean in the winter, between September to early February because of the storms/cyclones/hurricanes. So here they were, now running late into the season, at port in Fair Haven and the Centurion must make a choice. Chance it and make a run for Italy, or hold up until spring, hoping your cargo did not spoil.

This brings us to our first example of Christian leadership by Paul and my prayer for you this week has been that you can see in these leadership examples for your life.

1. Leading the World using the wisdom of past experiences.



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¹⁰(Paul) saying, “Sirs, I perceive that the voyage will be with injury and much loss, not only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our lives.” ¹¹But the centurion paid more attention to the pilot and to the owner of the ship than to what Paul said. ¹²And because the harbor was not suitable to spend the winter in, the majority decided to put out to sea from there, on the chance that somehow they could reach Phoenix, a harbor of Crete, facing both southwest and northwest, and spend the winter there.

Alright let’s talk a little bit about the power of learned lessons. How many of you would be willing to tell me that you have a good amount of learned wisdom because **you have made a few mistakes** in your day? Alright, I think all of us can say, “*we got some stories!*” Paul at the time of this stop knows the time of year, he is a professional traveler, and he has lived through some stuff.

2 Corinthians 11:24-26 ESV

²⁴ Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. **Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea;** ²⁶ on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers;

Paul is like look, I have been shipwrecked and have survived not once, not twice BUT 3 times! Look I have this stored up wisdom and I got to tell you we **should not** be sailing at this time of year. What’s more Paul’s spiritual radar must have been up as well. He’s probably looking at the rough trip so far, he understands that Satan has a personal vendetta against him, while also knowing that Jesus already said he was going to make it, but he can’t speak for the other guys. *I was the last man before and it looks like it will happen again. So, please listen up don’t do this!*

As a Christian it is ok and should be expected of us to speak up when we see those around us about to head into some real turbulent times. Family I am not talking about chastising someone repeatedly for their sin, I am talking about offering the lessons you have learned from your life that got you into



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deep waters, where you barely survived, and that you care enough that you don't want to see others go through it!

- I know what it is like to dodge responsibility, it means it takes you longer to grow up, to learn how to manage your life, in turn hurting people around you that need you to be more mature.
- I know what it is like to date people that do not think about Jesus and Christianity like you, it gets you off track and away from people you should be with.
- I know what it is like to live beyond your means, it means you have a hard time learning how to be generous towards God and others because you become a financial hoarder.

All these lessons many of you know plus a dozen more. So, when God gives you an opportunity to speak up and give a warning don't dodge it, people will remember that as kindness, that is as long as they see you as someone to be trusted and pleasant to be around like Paul.

2. Leading the World by riding the storm out when it seems hopeless.

¹³ ...they weighed anchor and sailed along Crete, ... ¹⁴ But soon a tempestuous wind, called the northeaster, struck down from the land. ¹⁵ ... driven along. ¹⁶ ... **we managed with difficulty to secure the ship's boat.** ¹⁷ After hoisting it up, they used supports to undergird the ship. Then, fearing that they would run aground on the Syrtis, they lowered the gear, and thus they were driven along. ¹⁸ Since we were violently storm-tossed, they began the next day to jettison the cargo. ¹⁹ And on the third day they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands. ²⁰ When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest lay on us, **all hope of our being saved was at last abandoned.**

Ok so can you imagine poor Paul, here we go again! Seriously Lord, it looks like plunge #4 is coming, and on top of that I am sick as a dog! I tried to tell them, but NOOO they wouldn't listen!

I know in life there are probably many of us are pretty steamed about the choices of people around us especially when it seems to all go wrong, when we have told our neighbors and friends, *I wouldn't do that if I were you.* I wouldn't not vote just because of mean tweets, I told you they were putting



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alternate lifestyle pornographic books in school libraries, I told you not to send your kid to a liberal school that was less interested in teaching and more interested in teaching political correctness. Look I know for many of us, we did tell them, but the problem is we are in the same boat, and we all need to start bailing water! Luke helped pull that dingy boat and secure it (v.16), he worked with the crew to help the best he could. They are in this together whether they like it or not.

For many of us, as we stated in the beginning, this is where many Christians just want to check out of culture and the world, because we are mad that others have brought us to the point where they are literally sinking our land in the ocean of totalitarianism and government control that is run by fools. The problem is though we have a job to do, we need to help bail water because we cannot forget that it was the will of Jesus we get in the boat in the first place!

We were born at this point in time HCC because God willed it for you family, that you would be alive during these days, to be a light in the darkness so that when hope looks bleak people can see that you are still going! Sometimes that is the best thing you can do, is stop complaining, pick up a bucket and keep bailing! Remember Jesus allows the storms to come, he will allow it to look bad like we are about to get sunk, because that is what He uses to wake people up to His presence on the boat! That’s what we want, for when it gets real bleak Jesus is about to really shine forth!

3. Leading the World trusting in the Word of God for deliverance.

²¹Since they had been without food for a long time, Paul stood up among them and said, “Men, you should have listened to me and not have set sail from Crete and incurred this injury and loss. ²²Yet now I urge you to take heart, for there will be **no loss of life among you**, but only of the ship. ²³For this very night there stood before me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship, ²⁴and he said, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you.’ ²⁵So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told. ²⁶But we must run aground on some island.”



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Paul had been biding his time and what a time it has been. They have not eaten for probably two reasons: hard to cook in a storm and then what you eat you can't keep down! But Paul stands up and listen to his proclamation. *Take heart, there will be no loss of life! For this very night I saw an Angel of the God whom I belong to and whom I worship. God has granted that all of you are included in the grace given to me, of having to get to Caesar, all your companions will be saved as well!* Paul lets them know the the rescue is going to happen **because it was the spoken Word of God!**

What if in our voyage of rough waters, God is making the opportunity for all of us to stand up and tell people take heart, it's not over, we can live but it is going to have to look different, because God's Word says we can pull through! Perfect time to learn this Psalm and proclaim to those afraid of our current storm.

Psalm 118:8-9 ESV

It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes.

Then Paul gives the why -

1 Corinthians 2:5 ESV

So that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

The message we have to embrace is you and I **aren't going to** get through this without losing something, but by God's grace He is going to save us! He has elected to save some, to show Grace, for there is still work to be done! America will never look the same but that doesn't mean that a different America can't be a better America for the work of the Gospel in the future.

What does it look like for all of us to start offering the Hope of God, what does it look like to make claims that we belong to God and only in Him is there Salvation through adhering to His Word?

Perhaps you have friends that need to hear it is not important how much money you have, or how big a reputation you can build, or how popular you can be among your friends, perhaps you need to say the Truth like look, if you



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go looking for your safety in those things you will be lost, BUT if you believe the living Word of God you can be saved. Whatever has been your vehicle to get by in life, that has to sink, but you, God has got your life in His hands **if you will repent and listen!**

Family we need to constantly be reminding each other in this room, it's not about our comfortableness it is about our eternal souls, and sometimes God wants to **sink our idols of comfort** because he wants to get us out of our boats and get us to the safe shore of eternity.

Let me ask you, is there a vessel you are too attached to today, a friendship, a dating partner, a job of convenience, a political persuasion, a self-serving attitude, an all-consuming habit, a lifestyle of comfort, a food addiction, your money, are you ready to leave it behind **if it means your Salvation?** Let go of those things, take heart God wants to save you, but He is not saving that ship that got you to this point, that needs to sink!

And when we are ready to take on that disposition of NOT being attached to our worldly stuff then look at what can happen.

4. Leading the World holding to your principles without acquiescence.

²⁷When the fourteenth night had come, as we were being driven across the Adriatic Sea, about midnight the sailors suspected that they were nearing land. ²⁸So they took a sounding and found twenty fathoms. A little farther on they took a sounding again and found fifteen fathoms. ²⁹And fearing that we might run on the rocks, they let down four anchors from the stern and prayed for day to come. ³⁰And as the sailors were seeking to escape from the ship, and had lowered the ship's boat into the sea under pretense of laying out anchors from the bow, ³¹Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, "Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved." ³²Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the ship's boat and let it go.

Paul was like *look, we have gotten to this point in our travels and now it looks like the sailors went along with the speech but now they are trying to bail. When I said we all will be saved it didn't mean that we can let people escape the*



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responsibility of the moment. We don't know whether it was a God ordained circumstance forcing the men to adhere to His Word and stay or that Paul simply saw the need of the sailors work and skill to be able to do with the boat what was needed. Either way, those that got them into this mess were now required to see it until the end. They were the ones that told Julius we can make it and now they were the first ones to abandon the ship!? Not on Paul's watch.

In a much broader sense speaking about Christian leadership when we as Christians start speaking up in our culture about the Word of God, what it teaches, how it is crystal clear in its' meanings, that you can trust it to teach you about Jesus and how He saves, there will always be people that want to escape the situation. There are Christians that have helped steer our metaphorical boat directly into these waters and they would much rather jump ship, wait for the rescuing, and come back out when the coast is clear. This is not time to take our focus off of those that have no answers and would rather not try to help now that we are in rough waters.

***RC Sproul** one said, “I don't think we will ever see a healthy evangelical church until the evangelical church is reformed. Solidly reformed, where it takes seriously Biblical Christianity and its' concept of a Sovereign God. Because unreformed Christianity has failed in our culture.”*

Social-minded and man-centered churches are not a modern creation they have been around since the Age of Enlightenment when men started questioning the existence of God. If you question the existence of God or even His attributes, then you will question the authority of God's Word. If you think the moral law is not applicable today, if you think that the culture of the day determines what you accept from the Bible, you are **antinomian**, a heretic as defined by our forefathers, and the title church should be removed from your body and your pastor needs to lose all credibility.

So, like Sproul, after we escape this dilemma and get to shore not one liberal minded church needs to be released from the responsibility of what they have been teaching up to this point. As reformed Christians it is time to call other Christians to believe ALL of the Bible, to accept God's Word at face value,



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stop trying to win friends with false doctrine, and trust in God’s unsullied Word for what it is. That’s a long game by the way, but I’m ok with it. It’s about our next generation family so let us older folks keep being diligent in teaching our young ones how the Bible really reads. Lead them by trusting in it, and they will follow suite.

5. Leading the World practicing optimism about tomorrows.

³³ As day was about to dawn, Paul urged them all to take some food, saying, “Today is the fourteenth day that you have continued in suspense and without food, having taken nothing. ³⁴ Therefore I urge you to take some food. For it will give you strength, for not a hair is to perish from the head of any of you.” ³⁵ And when he had said these things, he took bread, and giving thanks to God in the presence of all he broke it and began to eat. ³⁶ Then they all were encouraged and ate some food themselves. ³⁷ (We were in all 276 persons in the ship.) ³⁸ And when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship, throwing out the wheat into the sea.

Alright the day is coming, it is like resurrection Sunday, it’s like when Gandalf said look to the East on the third day. Paul stops the moment, tells them to eat you will need the strength, and then almost like communion he leads them all in focusing on the provision of God through prayer and the partaking of the meal.

It says the ALL ate, they all were encouraged, look how far the optimism of a Christian man goes, all 276 of them now took heart! They might not have all been Christians, but I bet you if Paul was an arminianist and gave an altar call at that moment he would have gotten the whole crowd saved! Then fully encouraged they throw the rest of the grain overboard, it means they have gotten the ship as light as they can, to get it as high in the water as they can, preparing to run for the shore. They had not seen the land, but they believed in the faith of Paul, there was land there, they were putting their hopes on him.



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Sometimes family that is how it has to be with us. Make no mistake, if we spend all our time bemoaning the hopelessness of our lives then people will literally die, but if we believe in faith in our tomorrows, people will live!

My parents would have been in their 90s if they were still alive, and man do I miss their leadership in life. My parents didn't teach me a lot by spoken principles or lessons, but they taught volumes by their attitudes. Both my parents were from poor beginnings, endured wars, endured abuse, endured crime, endured cancer, endured tumultuous economic times, endured murdered grand children, endured a multitude of challenges but in all of that **they knew how it never meant that life was over and there was no hope.** For some reason they always had this view of another day was coming around the corner, there was hope, there was more life to live. I miss that optimism.

2 Timothy 1:7 ESV

for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

Family that's how we all need to be in this room, for we know the truth, you may not have another tomorrow, **but to live is Christ and to die is gain** ([Phil 1:21](#)), there is always hope for us. We need to pass on that optimism to our children, we need to stop where we are trusting more in what we see instead of what the dawn light will bring, we need to put more joy in another day closer to Christ than just looking at it as just another wasted day to live. That type of optimism breathes life into those around us, that attitude may even be the spark that God uses to call the lost to repentance, when they see the faith of your Savior in your eyes.

6. Leading in the World producing a pathway towards repentance.

³⁹ Now when it was day, they did not recognize the land, but they noticed a bay with a beach, on which they planned if possible to run the ship ashore. ⁴⁰ So they cast off the anchors and left them in the sea, at the same time loosening the ropes that tied the rudders. Then hoisting the foresail to the wind they made for the beach. ⁴¹ But striking a reef, they ran the vessel aground. The bow stuck and remained immovable, and the stern was being broken up by the surf. ⁴² The soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners, lest any should swim



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away and escape. ⁴³ But the centurion, wishing to save Paul, kept them from carrying out their plan. He ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and make for the land,⁴⁴ and the rest on planks or on pieces of the ship. And so it was that all were brought safely to land.

Even after all of this Paul was still in danger because of his original positioning, he was still a prisoner. In those days if a prisoner escaped the guards watching them were held responsible for the escape with their lives. Julius stops the mass execution, grants everyone reprieves, takes the responsibility for all prisoners, and issues the orders that all will be saved. The leadership of Paul had gotten the Centurion to stop trusting in the way he lived, the might of Rome, what the empire could do to him, and instead Julius **learned to be more fearful of the God** that just saved Him.

Family when we begin to live out our convictions as we stated with our opening Main Point:

MP:

When tribulations in life come, lead by displaying your belief in a Savior that controls the storm.

God will use that to start producing faith in those around us. When we put more stock in the Lord of the Storm instead of the storm itself, people will learn to fear Him who they might not know fully yet. And in that perhaps someone that you have been faithful in leadership in front of they may become the tool that offers Salvation to hundreds, maybe thousands!

When we are obedient to lead by faith (in our homes) that’s when we see multiple generations in our families get saved.

When we are obedient to lead by faith (in the public square) that’s when politicians start paying attention again to what the church has to say.

When we are obedient to lead by faith (in our communities) that’s when our neighbors begin looking out not for just their good but for the good of their neighbors.



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Family let us pursue together the goal of leading by Faith in an already victorious Savior, for He can do all things that He has already promised in His Word.

[PRAYER]

[CALL TO OBEY]

In **John 14:15** Jesus says that if we love Him, we will keep His commandments. **Romans 8:28-29, 31 ESV** adds, ²⁸“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers... ³¹If God is for us, who can be against us? Church, God wants to use us to do His work, even when it feels scary to us, and if He is for us, then what can the world do to us?

[COMMUNION]

I wonder if on that fateful night if any of the disciples remembered the storm on the Sea of Galilee. How they had lost faith, how they were more afraid of the storm than He who was in that boat. My friends the Master of all storms overcame all obstacles displaying a perfect faith in the Father, because we could not, eat and be reminded we have been saved by our Master’s perfected Faith in God.

And for that lack of faith that we all sometimes show, Jesus shed His blood for the forgiveness of our sins. So now we would know through a corrected and reestablished relationship with God, His Spirit is with us constantly in all our tribulations. Remember that today and give a word of thanks and praise to Him. Leaders again encourage your families to put their trust in Him.

[CONFESSION OF FAITH]

* The Congregation will stand

Elder – “Christians, what do you believe?”



**Acts – Can I get a Witness?
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Congregation - recites LBCF 1689 Chapter 5 Section 5

5. God Often Disciplines or Tests His Children

The perfectly wise, righteous, and gracious God often leaves his children to various temptations and the sinfulness of their own hearts:

- to discipline them for their former sins, or
- to teach them the hidden strength of the sinfulness and deceitfulness of their hearts,

for the purpose of humbling them. He also does this:

- to lead them to more closely and constantly depend upon him for their support,
- to make them more cautious against future temptations to sin, and
- for other just and holy purposes

Therefore, whatever happens to any of his elect is because of his decree and happens for his glory and their good.

15. 2 Chronicles 32:25-26, 31; 2 Corinthians 12:7-9;16. Romans 8:28

[OFFERING+LAST SONG] –

[BENEDICTION]

Go in the name of the Father, that established our path of Salvation through the storms of life before we were ever born, trust in God the architect.

Go in the name of the Son, that is the Master of the Storms of life, successfully navigating a way through this life to bring us all home, trust in God your helmsman.

Go in the name of and power of the HS, that delivers us Hope on our darkest nights, now go and share that hope with others leading them to trust in God our great deliverer.