

HELP IN THE STORM

Acts 27:14-29

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Acts 27:14-29 recounts a harrowing tale of a storm at sea and how one faithful man "weathered" the storm
- B. Paul is on his way to Rome to appeal his case to Caesar. A violent storm hits them; so strong they could do nothing against it except let themselves be driven along - vs 15
 - 1. As storm worsens, they grasp at ways to deal with it. Vs 17-19, 38
 - 2. Hope fades, desperation sets in - vs 20, 29
- C. This is a vividly allegorical story that relates to us and the storms we face in life.
 - 1. Sometimes we throw out the things we need - Faith, trust, hope
 - 2. The worse the situation gets, we simply hunker down and wish it were all over
 - 3. There's an old fable that says the Devil once held a sale and offered all the tools of his trade to anyone who would pay their price. They were spread out on the table and each one labeled. Hatred, malice, envy, despair, sickness, sensuality -- all the weapons that everyone knows so well. But off to one side lay a harmless looking wedge-shaped instrument marked "discouragement." It was old and worn looking but it was priced far above all the rest. When asked the reason why, the Devil replied, "Because I can use this one so much more easily than the others. No one knows that it belongs to me, so with it I can open doors that are tightly bolted against the others. Once I get inside I can use any tool that suits me best." (From Bible Illustrator)
- D. Principles in this lesson will help us "weather storms" in our lives
- E. These would seem especially appropriate in view of the devastating storms that are experienced in this country

DISCUSSION:

I. GOD IS WITH US Vs 23

- A. God was "with" some by angels Heb 1:14
- B. He's with us through His children
 - 1. Sometimes from a distance Col 4:7-13
 - 2. Sometimes more closely Phil 2:19-20, 25-30
- C. He's with us always thru His Son (Emmanuel Matt 1:23)
Jhn 14:18, 23; Matt 18:19-20, 28:20
 - 1. Everything Jesus did, He did to establish a relationship with us that would be personal & intimate Heb 2:16-18, 4:15-16
 - 2. When life gets stormy and everything around you seems to fall apart, Jesus stands with you! 2Tim 4:17

II. GOD REASSURES US THRU HIS PROMISES Vs 24

- A. He gave us His Son to confirm His promises Rom 15:8, 13

- B. Someone said there are 26,000 promises in the Bible. However, many there are, they are fulfilled in Jesus. 2Cor 1:20
- C. We MUST cling to His promises if we're to overcome the storms, difficulties, adversities we're sure to face in life. Heb 6:12; 2Pet 1:4

III. WE MUST BELIEVE GOD AND TAKE COURAGE Vs 25

- A. Faith is only as strong as the One in whom it's placed. 2Tim 1:12
- B. We need courage, ESPECIALLY when our faith is tested and our confidence is shaken.
 - 1. Hope that deliverance is coming when circumstances seem otherwise 2Cor 1:9-11; Job 13:15
 - 2. We must know that when we ourselves fail, the Lord can "prop us up" and help us to stand in spite of our own weaknesses Jude 1:24-25
- C. Confidence that one day, our steadfastness will reap for us eternal benefits 1Jhn 2:28

CONCLUSION:

- A. In spite of difficult circumstances, we can overcome with faith intact, and be even stronger
- B. We can have hope and confidence if we let God's power work within us.
- C. We must show the world that our God is a stronger influence than ANY discouragement from the world Phil 2:12-15

(outline by Zeke Flores revised by jlh)