



A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- As we begin our study of Acts 27 we see:
 - “The voyage of life”
 - Which is an expression drawn from the close analogy from birth to the grave,
 - And the progress one makes along the way.

- The Christian metaphor of life **tossed upon the waves** of this troublesome world,
 - Yet finally reaching **the land of everlasting life.**
 - Let us note **some of the points of resemblance in a Christian's life** to the apostle's voyage as described in **Acts 27.**

- **First**, there is in both **a definite purpose.**
- The ship is making for **a particular port;**
 - The Christian is definitely seeking to attain the **kingdom of heaven.**

- The passing **circumstances**,
- The shifting **situations**,
- The immediate surroundings of the day,
limit our view,
- And the intermediate **seems to us as the final**,
- Or at least shuts **the final out from view.**

- The lesson is,
keep steadily in view,
in sunshine
and in storm,
under every variety
of outward *circumstance,*
the great end of
the Christian life.

- That is to dwell with Christ **in glory for ever,**
- And make every effort **to reach that end.**
 - Then, again,
let us notice
in the Christian life,
the similar voyage
in Paul's trip to Rome.

- There is the **fixed will and purpose,**

- There are also the:

- **Hindrances**

and

- **Disappointments,**

- **Obstacles**

that arise

- **unexpected.**

- There is the pleasant start,

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- The cheerful beginning
which seemed
full of promise
for a prosperous future.

- But these are succeeded by **dull delays** and **disheartening experiences.**
- We have to deal with events **of which we had not taken count.**

- By-and-by,
when we think
we see signs
of improvement,
**things suddenly take
a turn for the worse.**

- And our journey
**is in imminent danger
of shipwreck.**

- Happy is he who
at such times
lays fast hold of
the promises of God,
and
perseveres to the end.

- Only let each trial teach patience and long-suffering,
- Knowing that in due time all will be exchanged for the peace and safety of everlasting of glory in the presence of the Lord Jesus.

- **Let nothing shake your faith**
or dim your hope,
 - And then the
most troubled voyage
shall have a blessed end;
 - **And finally the words**
 - **Matthew 25:21**
Well done,
thou good and
faithful servant:

- Acts 27:1

And when it was determined that we should sail into Italy!

- And on that journey faith is put to the test.

- It isn't long until there is a storm at sea.

- **How powerless and feeble,**
man appears,
when contending with
the mighty forces of nature!
- The stoutest heart then **fail.**
 - The most reckless are
seen on their knees.

Matthew 14:25

And in the fourth watch
of the night
Jesus went unto them,
walking on the sea.

14:26 And when the disciples saw him
they were troubled, saying,
It is a spirit;
and they cried out for fear.

14:27 But ...Jesus spake unto them,
saying,
Be of good cheer;
it is I; be not afraid.

- In the hour of **the disciples' need** Jesus came to them.
- When the wind was contrary and life was a struggle, **Jesus was there to help.**
 - No sooner had a need arisen, **than Jesus was there to help and to save.**

- In life the wind is often contrary.
 - And life is a desperate struggle
 - with ourselves,
- with our circumstances,
- with our temptations,
 - with our sorrows,
- with our decisions.

- At such a time
no man/woman need struggle alone,
- For Jesus comes to him/her
across the storms of life,
 - Bidding us take heart
and have no fear.
- When the wind is contrary
and we are in danger
of being overwhelmed
by the storms of life.

- Life is not always calm.
 - Life's autumn is no better than life's springtime.
 - All will know times of stormy wind and rolling seas.
 - All will one day be in the grip of death.
 - And then what?

- It is here
we find Paul
amidst the
storms of life.
- We have here a
striking example of
Christian life
and influence.

- Paul had resources of strength and comfort that those around him had not,
- And he becomes their comforter and adviser.
 - Ecclesiastes 4:9
Two are better than one;...
4:10 For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow:
but woe to him
that is alone when he falls;
for *he does not have*
another to help him up.

- **Three times**
I suffered shipwreck:
a night and a day
I have been in the deep.”
(2 Corinthians 11:25)
- This Paul wrote to the Corinthians more than **two years** before.
- Of those earlier shipwrecks **we have no record.**
- But here we have a detailed account of **a fourth shipwreck.**

- In life we find true and false counselors.
- Paul stands for the true.
 - Act 27:10

Sirs, I perceive that this voyage will be with hurt and much damage, not only of the lading and ship, but also of our lives.



- The master and owner stand for the false.
 - Acts 27:11

Nevertheless the centurion believed the master and the owner of the ship, more than those things which were spoken by Paul. ²⁶

- Thus there are ever counselors wanting to give advise.;
- Some pointing to the right path, and some to the wrong;
 - Some the apostles of God, and some the emissaries of hell.

- 1John 4:1

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

- It may be that they thought Paul beside himself due to the danger they were in.
 - A landlubber giving nautical advise.
- Remember the word of Festus in Acts 26:24

**Festus said with a loud voice,
Paul, thou art beside thyself;
much learning doth
make thee mad.**

- **Men follow the false**
because it is--
- **1.** More compatible.
 - **2.** Popular.
 - **3.** Attractive.

- **2 Corinthians 11:13**

For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

11:15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

- If the evil that assails us we were to show its true colors we would run from it.
 - But too often we are dazzled by its seeming beauty.
 - And therein lies our peril.

- Let us now talk of
some ways
in which this
transfiguration of evil
effects us.

(**1**) Evil is transfigured
by imagination.

- Imagination
is ever active

in lending to evil things
a false splendor.

- In the Amazon lives a brilliant spider that spread itself out as a flower, and the insects lighting **upon it seeking sweetness, find death.**
- Such transformations are **common in life;**
- Displaying themselves **as innocence,**
 - They trap the **unsuspecting.**

- (2) Evil is transfigured by philosophy.

- In matters of

faith and worship

we may be misled by philosophy.

- Colossians 2:8 (ESV)

See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit,

according to human tradition, ... and not according to Christ.

- (3) Evil is transfigured by society.
- Through ages society has gained an exquisite skill in enjoying the pleasures of sin while stripping sin of its grossness.

- Pride,
 - Lust,
 - Selfishness,
 - Adultery
 - Dishonesty,
- abound in the social circle,
- But the revolting features of these vices are lost under the paint and powder of new terminology.

- Next, we find that fair winds are not always the best course.

- Acts 27:13

And when the south wind
blew softly,

- There are periods in life when the warm winds blow softly:

- 1. Youth.
- 2. Health.
- 3. Prosperity.

- Let us not forget that the chief danger of life lies in this moral illusion.

- We need ever to be on the watch, seeing that Satan conceals his evil purposes under false pretenses.

- **Matthew 16:6** (ESV)
- **Jesus said to them, “Watch and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”**
- People are led astray **by smooth talking preachers.**
 - Cheap faith
 - Just “believe”
 - Prosperity salvation.
 - Etc.

Acts 27:14

Soon a powerful wind
(called a northeaster)
blew from the island.

27:15 The wind carried
the ship away, and we couldn't
sail against the wind.
We couldn't do anything,
so we were carried along
by the wind.

- It can easily be seen what peril they were in.
- Then an amazing thing happened.
- Paul took command;
 - The prisoner became the captain,
- For he was the only man with any courage left.

- **Act 27:18**

And we being exceedingly tossed

with a tempest, the next day
they lightened the ship;

- **27:19** And the **third day** we cast out with
our own hands the tackling of the ship.

- **27:20** And when

neither sun nor stars

in many days appeared, and no small
tempest lay on us, **all hope** that we
should be saved was then taken away.

- Acts 27:22

**And now I exhort you
to be of good cheer;
for there shall be
no loss of life
among you,
but only of the ship.**

- Date: Sometime 1500
- It is told that on one of his voyages the crew of Sir Humphrey Gilbert's ship were terrified;
 - They felt that they were sailing right out of the world in the mists and the storms and the unknown seas.
 - They asked him to turn back.
He would not do it.
 - "I am as near to God by sea,
as ever I was by land."
 - The man of God stands when terror invades the hearts of others.

- **Job 22:21**

**Acquaint now thyself with him,
and be at peace:**

**Thereby good shall come unto
thee.**

- As you read
Chapter 27
we find the ship
in desperate trouble.

- By this time they had lost all control of the ship and were in eminent danger.
- V. 33 states that due to the trauma they had not eaten much in two weeks.
 - Now, what does Paul suggest?
 - V. 34 That they should eat.
 - There is an old adage that states: ”God helps those who help themselves.”
 - Paul had not the slightest doubt that God would do his part but he also knew that they must do theirs.

- Acts 27:36

Then were they all of good cheer,

- How can one be of
“good cheer”

at sea in a storm-tossed sea
and in a leaky boat?

- Danger is always
a test of character.
- One man is frightened,
- Another bewildered,
- Another irritated,
- Another selfish.
- Another helpless.
- We find none of this
in God's man, Paul.

- What do we learn from this chapter?
- **# 1** That life is often stormy.
- **# 2** That in the tempest of life some days
“no sun nor stars appear.”
- **# 3** The promise of God is,
“the Lord knoweth them that are His.”

- And on that note let us notice the promise of God.
- V. 24 "Lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee."

- **It was not necessary**
for God to save
the whole ship's company
in order to prolong Paul's life
that he might stand
before Nero;
 - But it was on
Paul's account
that the rest were saved.

- **It was by Lot's presence**
that the impending
fiery storm on Sodom
was delayed.
- No real disciple
can ever know
the full extent of
his/her influence
upon the ungodly.

- **Acts 27:44**

**And so it came to pass,
that they escaped
all safe to land.**

- In the financial panic
of **1857**,
when the best business
was a financial mess.

- A **Dr. Bushnell**
published in the
local newspaper

a sermon
based on this chapter.

- The lesson of it
was obvious.

- There are many times
when in the storms of life,
there is nothing for us to do
but to stand still

- and wait till**
the storm passes by.

- **Think on these things**
- **Philippians 4:8**

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17



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- Safe in the arms of Jesus.