

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

OCTOBER 18TH, 2026 // THE BOOK OF ACTS

HEADING TO ROME (ACTS 27:1-12)

PAUL'S JOURNEY

Paul is finally heading to Rome, just as God had promised. But he's not traveling as a free man. He's a prisoner who has endured years of opposition, suffering, and uncertainty.

- **We think that if we're obedient, God will protect us from difficulties, disappointments, and suffering. Sometimes He does, but not always.**

PAUL WASN'T ALONE ON THIS JOURNEY

Paul has Luke and Aristarchus traveling alongside him as he continues to endure difficult seasons.

- **Following Jesus was never meant to be done in isolation. Isolation makes us vulnerable to discouragement and temptation. If Paul needed people walking alongside him, so do we.**

"WINDS WERE AGAINST US"

As Paul continues toward Rome, unfavorable winds force the sailors to change their route. Their destination hasn't changed, but the journey looks different than expected.

- **We can become so attached to our plans and ideas that we struggle to trust God when life takes an unexpected turn.**

WARNING SIGNS

Significant time has passed and sailing has become more dangerous. Paul warns the men that continuing the journey could result in serious loss of cargo, the ship, and lives. Paul recognizes the danger ahead and speaks up.

- **Are we willing to speak up when someone we love is heading in the wrong direction?**

MAJORITY WANTS WHAT IS COMFORTABLE

Verse 12 tells us that Fair Havens was not considered a suitable harbor for spending the winter. Rather than remain somewhere inconvenient, the majority wanted to sail further to Phoenix, a more desirable location.

- **We tend to make decisions based on what is easiest. Sometimes the wisest decision isn't the most convenient one.**

THE STORM (ACTS 27:13-26)

FAVORABLE WINDS

The sailors have been waiting for favorable winds to continue their journey. When the south wind begins to blow, they see an opportunity to move forward. But this doesn't mean that continuing is wise.

- **An open door doesn't eliminate our need for wisdom and discernment or our need to be dependent on Jesus.**

NORTHEASTER STRIKES

What began as a gentle wind quickly becomes a violent storm. The sailors can no longer steer the ship and are driven wherever the wind takes them.

- **We can prepare and make plans, but we can't control everything life brings. Our circumstances may change, but God's character and faithfulness never change.**

STORM GROWS WORSE

As the storm grows worse, the sailors begin throwing cargo and equipment overboard. Things that were once valuable are now expendable.

- **We can spend our lives chasing things that offer temporary happiness but no lasting security. Sometimes it takes a storm to remind us what is truly important.**

STORM CONTINUES FOR MANY DAYS

For many days, the sailors cannot see the sun or stars. Unable to navigate and with no end to the storm in sight, everyone begins to lose hope.

- **Sometimes the hardest part of a storm isn't how suddenly it begins but how long it lasts. Can you continue trusting God even when your circumstances don't change?**

"ALL HOPE WAS FADING THAT WE WOULD BE SAVED"

Even Luke, a faithful follower of Jesus, includes himself among those who had lost hope. Luke believed in God, but he was still human. He experienced fear, exhaustion, and discouragement just like we do.

- **Struggling to find hope doesn't mean we've stopped having faith. It reminds us how much we need Jesus.**

PAUL'S FAITH DURING THE STORM

While everyone else has lost hope, Paul stands up and encourages them with what God has promised. Paul experiences the same storm, but his confidence in God becomes an encouragement to others.

- **God can use our faithfulness during difficult seasons to point people toward Jesus.**

PAUL TRUSTS IN GOD

Paul encourages everyone to take courage because he believes God will fulfill His promise. The storm continues, and their rescue will not look the way they expected.

- **Can you trust God even when the storm continues longer than you want? Can you trust God when the storms end in ways you didn't expect?**

SURRENDER YOUR PLANS

- Are you truly surrendering your plans to Jesus or asking Him to approve them?
- We can become so focused on what we want that we ignore God's wisdom and direction.
- A surrendered life doesn't demand that God follow our plans. **It trusts Him enough to follow His.**

EXAMINE WHAT YOU'RE TRUSTING

- The sailors placed their confidence in their experience, their plans, and their resources.
- We often build our security around money, success, relationships, or our own abilities.
- Difficult seasons reveal what we've been depending on more than Jesus.
- **If everything you've been depending on was taken away, would Jesus be enough?**

HOLD ON TO HOPE IN JESUS

- Even Luke, a faithful follower of Jesus, experienced a moment when all hope was lost.
- Our inability to see what God is doing doesn't mean He has stopped working.
- When life feels hopeless, **are you allowing your circumstances to define God or allowing God's character to guide you through your circumstances?**

BE A LIGHT IN THE STORM

- Paul experienced the same storm as everyone else, but his confidence in God became a source of hope for others.
- Sometimes our greatest testimony isn't that God removed our storm but that He sustained us through it.
- **Are the ways you're responding to storms pointing people to Jesus?**