THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

OCTOBER 25TH, 2026 // THE BOOK OF ACTS

ANCHORS (ACTS 27:27–32)

FOURTEEN LONG NIGHTS

For 14 nights, Paul and the others have been drifting at sea. They're exhausted, afraid, and uncertain about what lies ahead.

- We can become so overwhelmed by what we're facing that we lose sight of God's faithfulness. **The storm may prevent us from seeing where we're going, but it can't prevent God from fulfilling His purposes.**

ANCHORS

As the sailors approach land, they become afraid of crashing into the rock. They drop four anchors, hoping to keep the ship from drifting into danger.

- Just like these sailors, **when life becomes uncertain, we look for something to give us security. Jesus is the only anchor that will never fail us.**

FEAR CAN MAKE US SELF-FOCUSED

Some sailors secretly attempt to escape the ship, pretending they're lowering the lifeboat to help everyone. Rather than remaining to help the people aboard, they're focused on saving themselves.

- **Fear can cause us to prioritize our own comfort and security over our responsibility to others.**

FAITH REQUIRES OBEDIENCE

Paul warns that unless the sailors remain on the ship, everyone cannot be saved. The soldiers respond by cutting away the lifeboat. God had promised their survival, but they still had a responsibility to respond.

- **We cannot claim to trust God's promises while continually ignoring His instructions.**

FOOD (ACTS 27:33–38)

EAT TO REGAIN STRENGTH

After 14 days of fear and exhaustion, Paul encourages everyone to eat and regain their strength. Their storm hasn't ended, but God is providing what they need to keep going.

- **God doesn't always remove our difficulties, but He is faithful to sustain us through them.**

PAUL THANKS GOD

Paul takes bread and publicly thanks God, even though the storm hasn't ended. Paul doesn't just tell people to trust God—he shows them what trusting God looks like.

- **Our faith becomes a powerful testimony when others see us trusting God in circumstances where it would be easier to panic.**

PAUL INFLUENCES 276 PEOPLE

After watching Paul give thanks and begin eating, everyone aboard the ship is encouraged and begins eating as well. Paul's confidence in God begins to influence the 276 people around him.

- **Our walk gives credibility to our talk. Our talk gives clarity to our walk. Our lives should point people to Jesus.**

LIGHTENING THE SHIP

After everyone has eaten, the crew begins lightening the ship by throwing the remaining wheat into the sea. The wheat was valuable, but preserving their lives was more important.

- **Sometimes the greatest distractions from following Jesus aren't bad things—they're good things we've allowed to become too important.**

SHORE (ACTS 27:39–44)

TAKING A STEP

The sailors cut away the anchors, loosen the rudders, and raise the foresail as they prepare to move forward. The anchors that helped hold them in place must now be released.

- **We can become so attached to what makes us feel secure that we're afraid to take the next step of faith.**

FALLING APART

The ship strikes a reef, becomes stuck, and begins breaking apart under the force of the waves. They're finally close to safety, but everything seems to be falling apart again.

- **Just because something in our lives is falling apart, that doesn't mean God's promises are falling apart.**

JULIUS INTERVENES

As the ship begins breaking apart, the soldiers plan to kill the prisoners to prevent their escape. But Julius intervenes because he wants to save Paul. Why?

- **We may not always see the impact our obedience has on others. Although we may never see the fruit, we are called to love people and point them to Jesus.**

FINALLY AT THE SHORE

Some swim to shore while others cling to pieces of the broken ship. Every person survives, just as God promised. The ship they depended on has been destroyed, but God's promise remains.

- **The things of this world may provide temporary security, but only Jesus can give us lasting hope.**

WHAT ARE WE ANCHORING OUR LIVES TO?

- Just like these sailors, we often anchor our lives to finances, careers, relationships, success, or our ability to remain in control.
- Are we anchoring our lives to temporary things that can be taken away or to Jesus?
- **Spend time in His Word. Pray. Walk in obedience. Live in community.** This is a life that is anchored in Christ.

DO OUR LIVES REFLECT OUR FAITH?

- Paul didn't just tell people to trust God. He demonstrated his faith through obedience, gratitude, and concern for others.
- Our faith should change more than what we believe—it should change how we live and how we treat others.
- **What story is your life telling people around you about Jesus?**

WHAT DO WE DO WHEN LIFE FALLS APART?

- When life falls apart, our natural response is to grab hold of anything that gives us a sense of security or control.
- **Our greatest hope isn't found in holding everything together—it's found in holding on to Jesus.**
- Everything in this world can be shaken, but Jesus will never fail us.