

WHOSE SHIP ARE YOU IN?
ACTS 27:27-44

Introduction:

1. The Apostle Paul had been arrested simply for preaching Jesus and had appealed his sentence of death to Caesar, so he was placed in a boat that was bound for Rome.
2. The problem was that it was the wrong time of year to be in a boat on the Adriatic Sea.
3. They made a stopover in a port called “Fair Havens”, and Paul encouraged the crew to spend the winter there, knowing that the trip would end in disaster.
4. But the owner of the ship, and its helmsman, persuaded the Roman Centurion that was guarding Paul and the other prisoners, to proceed on to Rome.
5. Sure enough a tremendous storm arose and the ship began to be battered by the waves.
vv. 13-20***
6. Fear can cause people to give up hope, but Paul encouraged all of them on the boat to not give up but continue on, because God had told Paul that he must stand before Caesar.
vv. 23-25***
7. Now, we pick up the rest of the story in our text.

I. THE SAILORS WERE ABOUT TO JUMP SHIP. **vv. 27-30*****

- A. I can only imagine the fear these sailors must have felt, but notice they were about to leave the soldiers and prisoners on the boat and let them suffer the consequences of the storm.
- B. These sailors did not care about the others on the ship, only about themselves.
- C. When the storms of life are all around you, are your only thoughts about yourself?
- D. Do you get so caught up with self that you turn a blind eye, or a deaf ear, to the cry of others? **Romans 15:1** *We then who are strong ought to bear with the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.*
- E. Do you lose hope in God to bring you through those storms? **Hebrews 10:23** *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.*

II. THE NEED TO STAY IN THE SHIP. **v. 31** *Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, "Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved."*

- A. The only way all of them could be saved was for all of them to remain in the ship.
- B. Their ship was their salvation from certain death.
- C. Even in the face of great danger, Paul had concern for the lives of those who were taking him to certain execution.
- D. His words made sense to the Centurion and the sailors. **v. 32** *Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the skiff and let it fall off.*
- E. Sometimes we need the voice of others to awaken us to our needs, whether they be physical or spiritual. **Psalm 34:11** *Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.*

III. THERE IS A TIME TO JUMP SHIP. **vv. 39-44*****

- A. When morning came and the sailors saw a beach where they could sail toward, they let go the anchors, hoisted the mainsail, and got underway.
- B. They hadn't gone far when the bow of the ship got stuck and the waves began to break up the ship.

- C. A plan was devised by those in charge to kill the prisoners, but they were overruled by the Centurion whose job it was to bring Paul to Rome.
- D. Those who could swim jumped ship. Others jumped and were clinging to pieces of the ship.
- E. So all 276 people on the ship were saved from certain death.

IV. SO WHOSE SHIP ARE YOU IN?

- A. When difficulties arise in your life, what kind of ship do you find yourself in?
- B. Is it a ship that can easily be broken up by the storms, or is it a ship of safety?
- C. Some trust in psychiatrists, psychologists, various philosophies, others trust in drugs, alcohol, and other destructive habits, while others trust in their riches.

1. These are the kinds of “ships” you need to jump off. **Colossians 2:8** *Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.*

D. The only ship that is safe and assures your salvation is Jesus. **Hebrews 6:19** *This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil...*

Conclusion:

1. I’m reminded of that wonderful song Boundless Joy sang that won them the Talent Contest at the Great Western Quartet Convention, and the National Quartet Convention:

Cut the ties that bind you, to the dock of your defeat
 There's no fear of troubled water
 When you're sitting with the Holy Fleet
 The anchor must be lifted, as the waves begin to swell
 "All aboard" the master's calling, "this ship was made to sail"
 So move on out in the harbor, this ship was made to sail
 Bought by the blood of the Captain, this vessel will prevail
 On the victory shores of treasures and more, beyond the misty veil
 So move on out in the harbor, this ship was made to sail
 Angels all around us, singing glad reunion songs
 As we start the homeland voyage, There's a feeling that it won't be long
 Scriptures now have charted, a course that cannot fail
 So don't worry about the journey, this ship was made to sail
 So move on out in the harbor, this ship was made to sail
 Bought by the blood of the Captain, this vessel will prevail
 On the victory shores of treasures and more, beyond the misty veil
 So move on out in the harbor, this ship was made to sail.

2. Perhaps it is time for you to get in the only ship that will assure your salvation.
3. Will you put your trust in Jesus today?