

## Shipwreck Leadership

In the 1500's, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight, and then start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while.

Hence the rhyme:

*“Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old”.*

Text: [Acts 27](#)

We all face storms of life but they don't have to end up in shipwreck!

This past Wednesday our nation looked back at September 11, 2001 to commemorate Americans who died during the savage attacks that brought down the Twin Towers in Lower Manhattan – 12 years ago.

When those towers came crashing down it felt like a ship wreck - we were facing a crisis from a Shadowy enemy and know knew the extent of it ... our nation turned to God and began to pray

Not all storms look threatening at first – but storms have a way of catching you by surprise. Smaller problems have a way of piling up and weighing you down, especially when they become long lasting.

Personal - The Great South Bay experience ...

In [Acts 27](#) Paul is literally caught in a life/death struggle, a prisoner on a ship bound for Rome when Nor'easter (Typhoon) rears its ugly head

Points to consider in this scenario:

1. God gives His people warning
2. God reassurance to the believers
3. Our willingness to believe God
4. Encouragement to others

**Consider the context:** In chapter 26

Governor Festus and King Agrippa agree that Paul could have been set free ... if he had not appealed to Caesar.

Based on this comment one might conclude that Paul screwed up. If he hadn't been so quick to open his mouth he would be free.

But things are not always as they appear.

We Christians struggle free will and discovering God's Will for our lives!

We're afraid of making the wrong choice or decision ... even when we're praying and seeking for God's direction ...

**A Highway billboard** carried this message: "God is an imaginary friend – choose reality. It will be better for all of us."

This attitude most likely mirrored the mind-set of The Governor Festus who interrupted Paul's discourse telling him he was nuts.

*"...Paul you're crazy! You've read too man books spent too much time staring off into space! Get a grip on yourself; get back in the real world!" Acts 26: 25, 26 (The Message)*

Paul wasn't crazy and he wasn't he out of the will of God.

Even though he ends up shipwrecked - he was operating in the will of God. How do we know this?

**Verses 21 -26** *"... an angel of God stood before me ... "don't be afraid Paul you will surely stand before Caesar"* It was God's plan for Paul to go to Rome! (NLT)

**Chronicles 16:6:9** reads *"The eyes of the LORD run to and fro... to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him."* (KJ)

Why would God need to show himself strong to us? Because the storms will continue to come!

**Romans 8:38-39** (NLT) (written when he was preparing to make his trip to Rome)

*"And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

Nothing can separate us from the love of God ... yet the battle rages on ... Why?

For control of your mind, your heart, your peace – to attempt to get you caught up in your own problems, to use the raging storms to distract you from all that God has for you. To set you back on your heels instead of walking with Him by faith.

Patterns of the Spirit – if there is any such thing

**Point #1** God gave Paul a heads up – and he shared it with the leaders

See **Verses 10, 11** *“Men,” he said, “I believe there is trouble ahead if we go on – shipwreck, loss of cargo, and danger to our lives as well.” But the officer in charge of the prisoners listened more to the ship’s captain and the owner than to Paul.* (NLT)

Different kinds of ways –discernment a sense that we should not or should do something.

**If the officer had listened** to Paul none of this would have happened! There didn’t have to a shipwreck or the horrific trial that these men and Paul endured

**Point #2** God’s intervenes

Even when we find ourselves in the middle of someone else’s mess... **God still intervenes on our behalf** God reassured Paul that all would be well no one would be lost

**Point #3** Paul chose to believe God’s messenger

**Point #4** Encouragement to others - The raging storm blotting out sun and stars, and the sailors lost all hope. But Paul brought hope to the hopeless, through God’s promise.

⇒ This point is so important! God working through you – through the storm to minister to others who desperately need help.

**Verses 33- 38** Paul encourages all 276 people on board the ship to eat – takes some bread and gave thanks to God and broke of a piece and ate it.

He served them communion **Psalm 23 David wrote** “Though I walk through the valley of the Shadow of death ... you prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemy.”

Because of Paul – God preserved the lives of all the people on board including the prisoners who were going to be executed but were not because Julius wanted to protect Paul. Everyone even those who could not swim made it safely to shore with waves so violent they destroyed the reef bound ship.

We are on a ship together – The Patchogue Nazarene - some of you are weary from the storm but I encourage you don’t abandon ship or hope ... no a hair on your head will be harmed

Also continue to pray for the ship of state were on called America We need to continue to sound God’s warnings

Today - Maybe you’re the one who needs the encouragement