

Shipwrecked But Not Dead

Acts 27:9-11 - NIV

⁹ *Much time had been lost, and sailing had already become dangerous because by now it was after the Day of Atonement. So Paul warned them,*

¹⁰ *“Men, I can see that our voyage is going to be disastrous and bring great loss to ship and cargo, and to our own lives also.”*

¹¹ *But the centurion, instead of listening to what Paul said, followed the advice of the pilot and of the owner of the ship.*

- *How many of us* have looked back at our life and realized that it is only the grace of God that we have lived this long?
- Car wrecks, drugs, gang violence, drowning, and so many other circumstances **have taken the lives** of those we have been acquainted with,
- Some of you here, right now you know that if it wasn't for the grace of God you would have died in that car wreck,

You would have been the one spending your life behind prison walls, or you would have been the one who died of a drug overdose.

We begin this message with **Paul advising** them not to sail.

Acts 27:10 Paul tells them **not to sail**:

¹⁰ *“Men, I can see that our voyage is going to be disastrous and bring great loss to ship and cargo, and to our own lives also.”*

How many know we don't always listen to wise counsel???

- We could have saved ourselves a lot of **grief and pain**
- Had we just listened to those who tried to instruct us.

But they didn't listen and they sailed directly into the storm of their lives.

¹¹ *But the centurion, instead of listening to what Paul said, followed the advice of the pilot and of the owner of the ship.*

They lightened the ship!!!

****There's nothing like a bad storm for realigning priorities,***

****You find out real quick what you need and what is unnecessary, or excess baggage.***

Acts 27:18-19 – NIV ¹⁸ We took such a violent battering from the storm that the next day they began to throw the cargo overboard. ¹⁹ On the third day, they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands.

The ship was ***destroyed***, but ***they made it*** to land ***on boards***, and ***broken pieces of the ship***:

Somebody ought to lift your hands right now and say:

I'm going to make it - I may be:

- ***Broken***, but I'm still coming
- ***Wounded***, but I'm still coming
- ***Bleeding***, but I'm still coming
- ***Crying*** but I'm still coming
- ***Confused*** but I'm still coming
- ***Rejected*** but I'm still coming.

I know I'm not everything I should be...

- I'm still struggling with some hurts, habits and hang-ups
- I'm still wrestling with some anger and forgiveness issues
- I still slip up every once and while and say something I shouldn't say.
- I know I'm not where I should be by now,
- ***But, I know I'm moving in the right direction!!!***

I know I'm chopping up the water all around me, but ***it's just because I don't want to drown!!!!!!!!!!***

They all escaped safe to land:

Acts 27:44 - NIV

⁴⁴ *The rest were to get there on planks or on other pieces of the ship. In this way everyone reached land safely.*

*Somebody needs to ***lift your hands right now*** and **thank God that you made it through the storm.**

- It should have killed you, ***but you made it!!!***
- Most of it was your own fault, ***you brought it on yourself***
- But ***God had mercy*** on you and ***you made it!!!!***

****You shouldn't have made it, you shouldn't be here, and you shouldn't have made it through the storm...***

But just tell the devil - BUT I'm still here!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Acts 28:1-6 – NIV - Paul Ashore on Malta

28 Once safely on shore, we found out that the island was called Malta.

² The islanders showed us unusual kindness. They built a fire and welcomed us all because it was raining and cold.

³ Paul gathered a pile of brushwood and, as he put it on the fire, a **viper**, driven out by the heat, ***fastened itself on his hand.***

⁴ When the islanders saw the snake hanging from his hand, they said to each other, "***This man must be*** a murderer; for though he escaped from the sea, the goddess Justice has not allowed him to live."

⁵ But ***Paul shook the snake off into the fire*** and **suffered no ill effects.**

⁶ The people expected him to swell up or suddenly fall dead; but after waiting a long time and seeing nothing unusual happen to him, **they changed their minds and said he was a god.**

- ***They've made it through the storm*** and landed on an island.
- The barbarians on that island begin to kindle a fire for them.

Paul begins to gather sticks for the fire and out of the sticks; **a viper fastens itself to Paul's hand.**

Now it says in KJV - (***Howbeit they looked***) = to watch, to anticipate, to wait for,
⁶***Howbeit*** they looked when he should have swollen, or fallen down dead
 suddenly: but after they had looked a great while, and saw no harm come to him,
they changed their minds, and said that he was a god.

- There are ***people that are watching you who do not want you to make it.***
 They are *anxiously waiting and anticipating your downfall.*
They rejoice when they see you going through hardships and trials.
- They're *watching* and they're *waiting* to ***celebrate your downfall, celebrate your breakdown*** and ***your defeat.***
- This means that *they had seen this happen before,* and ***every time it happened this was the end result:***
He should have swollen or fallen down suddenly.
- ***Medical science says*** you *should have died*
- ***Every legal advisor says*** you *should have died*
- ***Every natural circumstance says*** you *shouldn't have made it*
- ***It should have killed you!!!!!!!!!!!!!!***
- You should be in a *mental institution* or *strung out on drugs, mad at God and mad at the world*

*I came to tell somebody that ***not only are you going to make it,*** but also ***you are not even going to look like you have been through*** what you've been through.

*When ***the children of Israel*** went through ***the Red Sea,***

- ***God didn't just part the waters;***
- ***He dried the ground that they walked on.***
- ***When they reached the other side, there wasn't even mud between their toes.***

For a little bit ***it looked like the enemy was closing in*** on them and was going to overtake them, ***but they just kept on walking!!!!***

While they were walking **God was taking care of their enemies**, while they were walking **their enemies were drowning**.

I want to tell somebody today, ***just keep walking!!!!***

- ***It doesn't matter what*** they say about you,
- ***It doesn't matter what*** they do,
- ***It doesn't matter what*** the doctor says,
- ***It doesn't matter what*** the rebellious child says,
- ***It don't matter what*** the financial report says
- ***This is no place to sit and cry, just keep walking!!!!!!!!***

When God gets through blessing you, ***you won't even look like you've been through what you've been through***.

And the only evidence of you going through what you went through will be a greater faith, a greater love, a greater confidence, a greater commitment, and a greater testimony.

"But you don't understand, I'm going through hell with this marriage, with this job, this sickness, this financial struggle."

You ought to be shouting right there. ***You're going through***.
You just prophesied ***your victory***.

Let me remind you, you're not the only one who has walked through the fire,

- ***3 young Hebrew boys*** who walked ***through the fire***,
- ***When*** they came out the other side the only evidence that they had been ***through the fire*** was they were liberated from their bondage,
- ***Bondage = The things that the enemy put on them, got burned off in the fire***
- They came out the other side with ***no hurt***,
- Their clothes were not burnt, their hair was not singed,
- There was ***not even the smell of smoke*** on them....

CLOSE:

Now back to Paul - ***The Bible says, that Paul shook off the beast.***

That viper had attached itself to Paul:

He had to become ***violent and aggressive against it.***

There are some things that ***you can pray about and ask God to take away,***
 There are some things that ***you must become violent, and aggressive against.***
And you must shake it loose,

You must ***shake like your life depends on it,*** because it does.

Shake that ***fear loose,*** shake that ***depression loose,*** shake that ***addiction loose,***
 shake that ***spirit of hopelessness*** and ***suicide loose,*** shake that ***spirit of lust*** and
perversion loose, shake that ***spirit of poverty loose,*** shake that ***spirit of sickness***
loose.

Shake that ***dead powerless religion loose.***

- Shake for your ***family***
- Shake for your ***health***
- Shake for your ***mind***
- Shake for your ***ministry***
- Shake for your ***finances***
- ***Shake, shake, shake, shake!!!!!!!!!!!!!!***

But shaking is not all there is to it, ***You need to be close to the fire.***

There are a lot of people who shake - go through the motions of being a
Christian, but not that many ***really have the fire.***

We still serve a God that answers by Fire.....

Paul shook that viper off into the Fire.

You need to ask yourself, are you ***living close enough to the fire?***

Is there fire in your car?

Is there fire in your home?

It should have killed me, but **I shook it off...**

It should have killed me, but ***I got close to the fire***, and **the fire delivered me**.

It should have killed Paul, they fully expected him to die, **but he shook it off into the fire**.

It was the fire that **destroyed the thing that was trying** to kill Paul.

Somebody listening to me, **the devil has sent something** out to ***try and destroy you***, but **it's not going to kill you because you're turning up the heat**.

Tell your neighbor excuse me but I've got to turn up the thermostat...

You might want to move to the other side of the room because I'm getting ready to praise like I've never praised before, I'm getting ready to shout, I'm getting ready to worship.

I haven't got time to try and be cute, I haven't got time to try and fit in, I'm praising for my life.

- I'm praisin for my destiny
- I'm praisin for my ministry
- I'm praisin for my children
- I'm praisin for my health

Tell somebody I know it should have killed me, ***but I'm still here***

I know I don't deserve it ***but I'm still here***.

I know the devil meant it for evil, **but God is turning it around for my good**.

PRAISE TEAM: I know what it feels like to be ship wrecked, and I know what it feels like to be bitten by the serpent, but I also know what it feels like to shake that snake off into the fire.

Somebody listening to this message right now:

You know it should have killed you, you know **if the devil had his way you'd be dead**, You know **if some people had been able to carry out their intentions you'd be dead**, ***(but tell your neighbor) I'm still here!!!!!!!!!!***

I'm still here because **God has a plan and a destiny** for my life!! Fulfill it!!!

