

Date: August 25, 2019

Text: Acts 27

Title: It Is Well

Big Idea: We should place our faith and hope in Christ in the midst of storms and shipwrecks.

I. Each of our lives will include storm & shipwreck

Sometimes, of course, we bring storms and shipwrecks on ourselves. Consider Acts 27:10 & 21. How have you caused storms in your own life?

But other times, it's out of our control. Consider Acts 27:12. Talk about storms and shipwreck that you have experienced because you live in a fallen world, or as the result of other people's decisions.

II. In the midst of life's storms, we can choose faith and hope over anxiety and despair.

This is a story of God's providence.

A. ***God's providence means that he is sovereign over the circumstances and through the circumstances*** (See verse 24-26). In other words, God is in charge *no matter what*.

B. ***God's providence even extends over the lives of those who don't believe in him.*** See verses 22-26.

C. ***God's providence should lead us to trust in him.*** When in your life has "all hope of ...being saved [been] at last abandoned" (v. 20)? Can you look at God's sovereign and providential care in your life and begin to find some hope? To trust him in small things helps you to trust him in the midst of storms. Take some time to inventory God's working in your life over the past day, week, month, and year. Give thanks to him and pray he will increase your hope.

III. In the midst of life's storms, we can pray for others.

In verse 24, what does God "grant" to Paul? This implies that Paul *asked* for something.

How do you pray for others in the midst of their storms? Do you pray for their deliverance? For God to make himself known to them? For their salvation?

Make a list of people you can pray for who are going through storms—especially those who do not know Jesus. Commit to pray for them daily for the next week.

IV. In the midst of life's storms, we can encourage others to faith and hope.

In the midst of despair, Paul calls them all together (vv. 21-26) and gives them hope. He gives them God's own word—his promises—and calls unbelievers to depend on God for salvation. He calls them to share his faith and his hope.

He then encourages them to normal self-care in verses 33-38. He *gives thanks* and *partakes*: both of which are recognitions of his dependence upon God in everything.

How do we neglect the simple care of ourselves, and how does this sometimes make our anxiety and despair worse than it otherwise would have been?

How can giving thanks—and encouraging others to give thanks—bring hope?

How can partaking of God's good gifts—like food and rest—give hope?

Take time to encourage someone this week towards faith and hope.

Jesus is the Bread of Life (John 6:35, 48). How can you better partake of this Bread in an ongoing, nourishing, life-giving way?