

I. ON THE SHIP

- A. “We” boarded the ship for Rome.
1. That is Paul, Luke, and Aristarchus (vs. 2)
 - a. This refers to the times in Acts when Luke was present.
 - b. Luke, a physician and learned man, was saved in Troas.
 - c. ACTS 16:10 – “And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.
 - d. And then the voice changes!
 - e. ACTS 16:11 – “Therefore loosing from Troas, we came with a straight course to Samothracia, and the next day to Neapolis;”
 2. But who is Aristarchus? A FAITHFUL companion to Paul!
 - a. We first meet him in ACTS 19:29, then ACTS 20:4, then here (vs. 2)
 - b. But he is mentioned by name twice in the epistles.
 - i. COL. 4:10 – “Aristarchus my fellowprisoner saluteth you, and Marcus, sister's son to Barnabas, (touching whom ye received commandments: if he come unto you, receive him;)”
 - ii. PHILEMON 1:24 – “Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my fellowlabourers.”
 - c. Paul calls him a FELLOW PRISONER. Aristarchus CHOSE to stay!
 3. Julius the Centurion also – another RESPECTFUL and COURTEOUS Roman
 - a. Sometimes the Romans get a bad name by Bible Believers
 - i. Lost people are simply LOST – no more sinful than SAVED!
 - ii. We are not sinless but should instead try to SIN LESS.
 - iii. We must show the love of CHRIST to EVERYONE we meet.
 - b. This soldier gave Paul the respect due a Roman Citizen
 - c. He also got a front-row seat to see God work – did he get saved?
- B. The Winds changed their course (vs. 4-5).
1. God’s hand is guiding them and DIRECTING them.
 - a. The winds blow against those who seek Paul’s destruction.
 - b. The winds blow to protect Paul even in difficult seasons of life.
 - c. They CHANGED COURSE because of the circumstances (vs. 4)
 - d. Are the winds blowing contrary to you in your life?
 2. Changing the ship didn’t fix anything (vs. 5-6)
 - a. They found a different ship that could get them over to Italy.
 - b. But the winds still blew AGAINST their purposes.
 - c. Does it feel sometimes like the wind is always against you?
 - d. Changing ships... turning over a new leaf... never seems to help?
 3. It was SLOW going (vs. 7) and they made POOR headway.

- a. That's what happens when you try to work against God.
- b. Paul could have told them that. The Lord told him once:
- c. ACTS 9:5 – “And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.”
- d. They were not able to get out into the deep waters.
 - i. They sailed close to the shore.
 - ii. “Hardly” making any progress on their journey.
- 4. The WIND would not “suffer” them (vs. 7)
- C. Isn't it interesting that the Holy Spirit is also likened to the “wind”?
 - 1. JOHN 3:8 – “The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.”
 - 2. When we study the Holy Spirit, we call it “Pneumatology.”
 - a. Pneuma is the same word that we use for “air filled tires.”
 - b. Pneumatic tools make things move with invisible force.
 - c. Pneumatic rifles shoot a pellet with invisible power.
 - 3. When everything is blowing against you, let GOD turn the SHIP AROUND!

II. AT THE SEAPORT

- A. They finally reach the “Fair Havens” (vs. 8)
 - 1. Many people stay in the same place spiritually too.
 - 2. A place that's “good enough.”
 - a. I should really do more for God but I'm doing okay.
 - b. There's a few things God has been dealing with me about...
 - c. Our life should go FORWARD for Christ, not stand still.
 - i. Nothing should stop us, slow us, or delay us.
 - ii. Nothing should break our stride!
 - iii. 1 JOHN 4:4 – “Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.”
 - 3. Saddest of all, people tend to keep battling stubbornly against their God.
 - a. They're going to “make it happen.”
 - b. They say, “I'm going to kick the door open that God has closed.”
 - c. In that path only lies pain, loss, and regret!
 - d. Even the Pharisee Gamaliel said in ACTS 5:39 – “But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God.”
- B. The Lord's Will – CAN BE KNOWN!
 - 1. First, God is not WILLING that any should perish!
 - a. It is His Will that everyone should come to Christ and be Saved.
 - b. But He has given us free will – so many will reject that grace.
 - c. But He has given us MERCY to make that choice!

2. Second, CIRCUMSTANCES are a bad indicator of God's Will alone.
 - a. "It must be God's will that I tend bar because I got a raise."
 - b. "The floor was too cold, so it must mean I should stay in bed."
 - c. It's superstition! It's what the Health and Wealth teachers say!
 3. God's Will: Canon, Comforter, Counselors, and only THEN Circumstances
- C. They journeyed on. They supposed "everything" was alright.
1. Even when the PREACHER warned them not to go!
 2. Going on in human wisdom gets us into trouble!
 3. 1 COR. 2:12-13 – "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. (13) Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual."

III. IN THE STORM

- A. There was a TEMPESTUOUS WIND (vs. 14)
1. WEBSTER'S 1828 – "Blowing with violence."
 - a. We are familiar with hurricanes here in Florida.
 - b. First hurricane I experienced in NC – Different than a hard rain.
 - c. I'm familiar with Tornadoes.
 - i. I remember the night that the barn doors blew away.
 - ii. I remember the glass stick into trees inches deep.
 - iii. I remember Pierce City being leveled.
 2. God was blowing that ship with winds of Judgement.
 - a. JONAH 1:4 – "But the LORD sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken."
 - b. JOB 1:19 – "And, behold, there came a great wind from the wilderness, and smote the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they are dead; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee."
 - c. They were DRIVEN of the sea – had NO CONTROL over the ship.
 3. This shows God's power and Man's weakness.
- B. Jesus is God and He has power!
1. Remember when He was on the ship asleep and the storm arose?
 2. MARK 4:39 – "And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm."
- C. They had no power, nothing they could do would help
1. Just like a man's effort to save his eternal soul. Helpless!
 2. GAL. 2:16 – "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of

the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.”

IV. UNDER THE SHADOW

- A. All hope was lost – They were under the shadow of doom! (vs. 20)
 - 1. Darkness only prevailed. The storm hid the sun, stars, moon!
 - 2. They can no longer sail by sight – nothing to see but wind and rain!
 - 3. It is at this stage in life that men begin to listen to God!
- B. When we come to the end of ourselves, we will finally find the beginning of God.
 - 1. Maybe that describes you this morning.
 - 2. No light. No safety. No hope.
 - a. You won't find help within yourself.
 - b. It only demonstrates the problem!
 - c. JOHN 3:19 – “And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.”
 - d. You can't trust your heart – JER. 17:9 – “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”
 - e. ROM. 3:23 – “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”
 - 3. When it seems like there's nowhere else to turn
- C. You can still turn to God.

V. WITH OUR SURRENDER

- A. But only in full surrender. He says, “Come unto me.”
 - 1. But you can't go to Him if you want to stay in the world.
 - 2. You can't hold anything back for yourself.
 - 3. Haven't you proven to yourself yet that your way doesn't work?
- B. He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.
 - 1. But He won't be your “backup plan.”
 - 2. You have to come to Him and be born again.
 - 3. He is mighty to save all who will receive Him.
- C. Be Saved Today