

# VOYAGER

*Experiences That Shape Our Faith*

**About the Series:** Experiences are powerful and can shape our Christian faith. But experiences should not be what defines our faith. Rather, it should serve to strengthen our faith and affirm what we already know to be the facts of our faith as recorded in the Scriptures. In this sermon series, we explore the journeys of Apostle Paul and how encountering life-changing experiences can teach valuable life lessons to voyagers like us who are on a journey called life.

## Part 19

### Surviving Life's Storms

Acts 27:1-44 | Dr. Stephen G. Tan

#### DISCUSS

When we go through life's storms of problems and challenges, what are the things we need to remember to help us survive? Read Acts 27:1-44.

#### **Oftentimes we experience life's storms when we don't heed wise warnings (v. 1-14)**

- What happened when Paul and his companions sailed to Italy?
- What did Paul, a seasoned sea traveler, advise the captain of the ship to do because of the bad weather? Did they take his advice?
- How do storms in your life happen because you do not heed wise advice and warnings? Should you expect God to always come to the rescue to bail you out, if you haven't listened to Him or to the people He has surrounded you with who has the wisdom to give you good and sound advice? Share an experience relating to this matter.

#### **Sometimes the decisions and actions of others bring storms into our lives (v. 9-11)**

- What happened when the Captain of the ship didn't listen to Paul's advice?
- How do the decisions and actions of others affect you and bring storms into your life? How should you respond in those situations?
- Why should you continue to cling on to Christ and to be a godly witness to the world while going through these storms?

#### **God's sovereign will prevails over any storms of life (v. 15-25)**

- What did the sailors try to do to keep the ship from capsizing? How did Luke describe their depressing situation in verse 20?
- In the midst of this mess, how did Paul assure them that all would be well?
- Have you ever been in a similar situation when a storm in life brought about by your own foolish decisions, but it is God's sovereign, loving, caring and perfect will that carried you through? Share with the group.

#### **Faith in God and in His Word are the only things we can cling onto in the storms of life (v. 25)**

- How did Paul encourage his shipmates?
- Why is it that as you go through life's storms, you cannot trust in your own power, skills, resources, and intelligence to get out of the storms?
- How do you cling on to God in whatever you are going through, whatever hardships you have, whatever challenges you encounter, whatever relationship problems you are experiencing?
- What amazing truth should we learn from 2 Corinthians 1:8-9?

#### **Doing our part and trusting in God are not mutually exclusive in life's storms (v. 27-38)**

- Did Paul demonstrate his trust in God in this situation? Was it necessary for Paul to have done anything? Discuss how Paul's actions demonstrated trust in God.
- Share an example of a time when you were going through the storms of life, and God was helping you yet also expected that you will have to do your part.

- Remember, you cannot be so spiritually-minded that you no longer perform the earthly responsibilities God has given you.

**Our faith walk is most clearly seen by others in how we handle life's storms (v. 39-44)**

- Why did the Centurion not allow the soldiers to kill the prisoners under their guardianship?
- What did the Centurion see in Paul that he would want to save Paul's life?
- When you go through life's storms, what impression does your faith walk leave to others?

**REFLECT**

Our walk with Christ—or lack of it—is most clearly seen when we are going through life's storms. There is no greater opportunity to show a life lived for Christ to a world that is watching than in how we handle adversities, challenges, and difficult times. What does your faith walk look like when you are in the storms of life?

**PRAY**

Heavenly Father, thank You that although life's storms in any angle may be hard to face and sometimes seem impossible to deal with, I can press on as I cling to Jesus Christ who is the Rock that does not move. Thank You that as I depend on Him, my faith walk is clearly seen by others in how I handle life's storms. May this lesson always remind me that You are always there for me regardless of my situation. In Jesus' mighty name. Amen.