

**DATE:** Saturday-Sunday, July 25-26, 2020

**SERIES: LIVING IN THE PARENTHESIS:** *Steps to a Joyful and Meaningful Life*

**SERMON:** Can We Survive This?

**Acts 27:9-44**

[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.

[12] Since the harbor was unsuitable to winter in, the majority decided that we should sail on, hoping to reach Phoenix and winter there. This was a harbor in Crete, facing both southwest and northwest.

[13] When a gentle south wind began to blow, they saw their opportunity; so they weighed anchor and sailed along the shore of Crete.

[14] Before very long, a wind of hurricane force, called the Northeaster, swept down from the island.

[15] The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along.

[16] As we passed to the lee of a small island called Cauda, we were hardly able to make the lifeboat secure,

[17] so the men hoisted it aboard. Then they passed ropes under the ship itself to hold it together. Because they were afraid they would run aground on the sandbars of Syrtis, they lowered the sea anchor and let the ship be driven along.

[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.

[20] When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved.

[21] After they had gone a long time without food, Paul stood up before them and said: “Men, you should have taken my advice not to sail from Crete; then you would have spared yourselves this damage and loss.

[22] But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed.

[23] Last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me

[24] and said, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.’

[25] So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me.

[26] Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island.”

[27] On the fourteenth night we were still being driven across the Adriatic Sea, when about midnight the sailors sensed they were approaching land.

[28] They took soundings and found that the water was a hundred and twenty feet deep. A short time later they took soundings again and found it was ninety feet deep.

[29] Fearing that we would be dashed against the rocks, they dropped four anchors from the stern and prayed for daylight.

[30] In an attempt to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea, pretending they were going to lower some anchors from the bow.

[31] Then Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, “Unless these men stay with the ship, you cannot be saved.”

[32] So the soldiers cut the ropes that held the lifeboat and let it drift away.

[33] Just before dawn Paul urged them all to eat. “For the last fourteen days,” he said, “you have been in constant suspense and have gone without food—you haven’t eaten anything.

[34] Now I urge you to take some food. You need it to survive. Not one of you will lose a single hair from his head.”

[35] After he said this, he took some bread and gave thanks to God in front of them all. Then he broke it and began to eat.

[36] They were all encouraged and ate some food themselves.

[37] Altogether there were 276 of us on board.

[38] When they had eaten as much as they wanted, they lightened the ship by throwing the grain into the sea.

[39] When daylight came, they did not recognize the land, but they saw a bay with a sandy beach, where they decided to run the ship aground if they could.

[40] Cutting loose the anchors, they left them in the sea and at the same time untied the ropes that held the rudders. Then they hoisted the foresail to the wind and made for the beach.

[41] But the ship struck a sandbar and ran aground. The bow stuck fast and would not move, and the stern was broken to pieces by the pounding of the surf.

[42] The soldiers planned to kill the prisoners to prevent any of them from swimming away and escaping.

[43] But the centurion wanted to spare Paul’s life and kept them from carrying out their plan. He ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and get to land.

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

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*Pastor Josh Jordan*

**1. Who is speaking loudest in your life?**

- Is it the Word or the World?
- Is it your pastor or the press?

*Proverbs 19:20-21 Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future. Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.*

**2. We must know that Jesus is our rescuer.**

**3. They had done everything they could possibly do, but the storm was not over.**

**4. In these days it's easy to lose hope.**

*Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.*

**5. When you encounter good news from God it changes everything.**

**6. When you have good news, you share it, even if it seems impossible.**

*Joshua 1:9 This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.*

**7. Following Jesus is an all-in, death of your former life, cut the ties of lesser gods, kind of commitment.**

*John 16:33 I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.*

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**6. Who is speaking loudest in your life?**

➤ Is it the \_\_\_\_\_ or the \_\_\_\_\_?

➤ Is it your \_\_\_\_\_ or the \_\_\_\_\_?

*Proverbs 19:20-21 Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future. Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.*

**7. We must know that Jesus is our \_\_\_\_\_.**

**8. They had done everything they could possibly do, but \_\_\_\_\_ was not over.**

**9. In these days it's easy to \_\_\_\_\_.**

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# Lagniappe

## **It's time to renew!**

With the fear of the coronavirus and almost 5 months of lockdown and isolation, it just feels that it's time for renewal in our lives.

I sense that particularly in our relationship with God.

We all know that it's been easy to give ourselves excuses for why we aren't sharing our faith, growing in Christ likeness, and ministering in the name of Jesus. I hope that you will begin the month of August by seeking God and desiring to become more like Him.

Our new sermon series will be: "**Renew!**"

*We will LOOK at what renewal means* - and how we get there.

*We will SEEK God in holy scripture* -and let Him show us how He wants to make all things new.

*We will ASK what really matters to God* - and seek to do it with all our heart.

Our theme verse will be *Romans 12:1-2 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God - this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - His good, pleasing and perfect will.*

We certainly need our minds and hearts renewed. Will you join me in this journey to renewal?

## WAYLON