

Hope for Hurting Hearts
Part 1: Hope in a Crisis
Acts 27:9-29

Four kinds of storms:

- Storms I cause.
- Storms the devil causes.
- Storms our fallen world causes.
- Storms other people cause.

I. How do we get ourselves into storms?

- **We listen to the wrong experts**; *they followed the advice of the pilot and of the owner of the ship (Acts 27:11).*
- **We go along with the majority**; *... the majority decided that we should sail on (Acts 27:12).*
- **We rely on circumstances**; *When a gentle south wind began to blow, they thought they had obtained what they wanted (Acts 27:13).*

II. How do we typically react to storms?

- **We drift**; *The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along (Acts 27:15).*
- **We discard**; *We took such a violent battering from the storm that the next day they began to throw the cargo overboard (Acts 27:18).*

- **We despair**; *When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved (Acts 27:20).*

III. How can we hold on to hope in storms?

Although we tend to have natural reactions, Paul teaches us how to drop down anchors so we can hold on to hope.

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul. Hebrews 6:19

1st Anchor: God's Presence; no matter how dark it gets, God is with you!

"Last night an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve stood beside me." Acts 27:23

"As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you." Joshua 1:5

2nd Anchor: God's Purpose; no problem is bigger than God's plan for your life!

"[The angel of God] said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar ...'" Acts 27:24

3rd Anchor: God's Promise; we may lose the boat, cargo, tackle and we may even get a little wet, but God's promise is that no matter how bad the storm gets we will make it through!

"So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me." Acts 27:25