

Recap of 9/18/22 message by Joe Ricchuiti – Acts 27:21-44

1. "During the perilous voyage by sea to Rome, God assures Paul in a dream that he will stand before Caesar to bear witness to the gospel. What God does not tell Paul is that before he arrives in Rome, he will experience shipwreck and snakebite!" (Daily Walk Bible)

2. Lessons in the "storms" and difficulties, and challenges of life. (There are six.)

- "storms" do not always come because of some disobedience (as with Jonah), but God sometimes allows us to go through storms. Paul was not disobedient, nor was he out of God's will.

"Christ...does not immunize Christians from problems that others in the world also face. Sometimes he miraculously delivers Christians from such situations, while at other times He gives Christians courage to endure natural and other disasters." (Ajith Fernando quoted by Larry Richards)

- "storms" bring out what is inside, our true character. "We presume that we would be ready for battle if confronted with a great crisis, but it is not the crisis that builds something within us—it simply reveals what we are made of already.... Crises always reveal a person's true character." (Oswald Chambers)

-in spite of "storms" God is still in control, furthering His purposes

-storms cannot separate us from the presence of God, in fact it is in storms that we can often more clearly see the presence, power and protection of God

-storms open the door to serve others, particularly non-believers. Our journey through life is as much for others as for ourselves; to give them perspective, to witness by word and by life. Paul knew he was going to get safely to Rome (23:11) yet his concern was for the safety of the crew and passengers on the ship.

-storms open the door to witness

3. In the midst of the storm, Paul took leadership of the situation, and encouraged those around him:

-by the Word of God (we must know the Word and be prepared to use it and be confident in its reliability so that we can share it confidently.

-by his confidence in God's care over him, he lived by faith not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7). God was real in his life.

-by practical, common sense (living by faith does not exclude a practical approach to life)

-by his example (he lived out what he professed and advised). Our spiritual lives must be more than a façade. We need to live consistently before our mates, our children, our co-workers, our friends.