

“Anchored Down or Anchored In?”

anchor [ang-ker]: a person or thing that can be relied on for support, stability, or security; mainstay. (one of several definitions)

Acts 27:13-26 (NIV1984)

"The Storm"

13When a gentle south wind began to blow, they thought they had obtained what they wanted; so they weighed anchor and sailed along the shore of Crete. 14Before very long, a wind of hurricane force, called the “northeaster,” swept down from the island. 15The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along. 16As we passed to the lee of a small island called Cauda, we were hardly able to make the lifeboat secure. 17When the men had hoisted it aboard, they passed ropes under the ship itself to hold it together. Fearing that they would run aground on the sandbars of Syrtis, they lowered the sea anchor and let the ship be driven along. 18We took such a violent battering from the storm that the next day they began to throw the cargo overboard. 19On the third day, they threw the ship’s tackle overboard with their own hands. 20When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved.

21After the men 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. 22But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed. 23Last night an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve stood beside me 24and 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.’ 25So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. 26Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island.”

"The Storm"

13When a gentle south wind began to blow, they thought they had obtained what they wanted; so they weighed anchor and sailed along the shore of Crete.

- **When we start our Journey, often times the wind is “gentle” and everything seems alright. This can give us an underestimation for how challenging that journey can be. What have you underestimated in your walk with God? How are you handling it?**

14Before very long, a wind of hurricane force, called the “northeaster,” swept down from the island. 15The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along.

- **How do you handle unexpected “Storms” in life? The circumstance FORCED them to redirect their intended route,...How do you handle being inconvenienced? Do you readjust or persist? Is God your compass or your own feelings and goals?**

16As we passed to the lee of a small island called Cauda, we were hardly able to make the lifeboat secure. 17When the men had hoisted it aboard, they passed ropes under the ship itself to hold it together. Fearing that they would run aground on the sandbars of Syrtis, they lowered the sea anchor and let the ship be driven along.

- **Sometimes it’s hard to hold on to what we need, but in order to maintain, we have to be willing to adjust to the situation. They were willing to let the ship be driven along, in order to avoid danger...are you willing to stay the course when things get challenging spiritually in order to avoid Spiritual Danger or do you like to get close and jeopardized your walk with God?**

18We took such a violent battering from the storm that the next day they began to throw the cargo overboard. 19On the third day, they threw the ship’s tackle overboard with their own hands.

- **When the Storm hits, God will both Direct Us and Prune Us! Pruning involved Cutting Things Out that both distract and distract us from the ultimate Goal...Getting to Heaven. What are you Unwilling to give up in order to keep God at the Center of your life?**

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

- **Have you ever felt Hopeless in your walk with God? What area do you feel hopeless in, if any?**

21After the men 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.

- **Paul Stood Up & Proclaimed his Faith, which inspired others in the midst of the Storm. Do you lay down in the midst of the storm getting swayed back & forth by the winds, or do you Stand Firm in your Faith? What does Standing Firm mean for you, specifically?**

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

- **The Ultimate Goal was Saving Souls, but they had to be willing to lose the “Ship” or external things of value. What things are hindering your walk with God and are you willing to “lose” them.**

23Last night an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve stood beside me 24and 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.’ 25So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. 26Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island.”

- **Paul’s confidence came from his relationship with God, NOT the External Circumstances. What Circumstances distract you from your relationship with God? Make a List of your Convictions that you know to be true, NO MATTER WHAT. Meditate on These & Deepen them. Add New Conviction as time moves on and remember them when the storm hits.**

I. The Storm is The Norm!

II. God’s Word is The Only Anchor That Will Survive & Thrive Through a Storm!

III. It’s Not Just, GETTING Saved or BEING Saved, but STAYING Saved, & Making It To Heaven...Al While Helping Other’s Do The Same!

I'd Much Rather Had Known My Father...

George Mallory is the famous mountain climber who died attempting to reach the peak of Mount Everest, and may well have been the first person to reach the peak. But the pursuit of his dream took a toll on his family. In the introduction to the book *Last Climb*, George's son John, who is was just three years old when his father perished, speaks of both his pride at what his father achieved and sadness. He wrote **"I would so much rather have known my father than to have grown up in the shadow of a legend, a hero, as some people perceive him to be."**

**Let's be sure not to let our PERSONAL & even SPIRITUAL AMBITIONS,
prevent us from Knowing our Father in Heaven!**