

Series: Unstoppable Church

Title: The Value of Storms

Text: (Acts 27)

Canary Islands – Ave Temp is 68’, Never Rains,
A Veritable Paradise-You Might think!
Overcast 330 days a year.

Buildings over 2 stories tall are stained with grime.
Car Exhaust creates smog that never leaves.

We think storms are a Nuisance,
“*Is there any value in having storms?*” YES!
but our God is a God of Balance!

Storms Cool the Earth.
Storms Clean the Air.
Storm Winds Distribute Pollen & Seeds.
Storm Winds Remove Weak & Dead Vegetation.
Storms provide water for crops & Irrigation.
Storms clear rivers and Streams of debris.
Storms keep us from being over run with insects.
Lightening Strikes produce Ozone for our atmosphere.
Lightening Strikes release 20% of the Nitrogen needed to fertilize plants.

The National Weather Service/ Ave 1800 T-storms
attacking the globe on any given day!

The strength of a thunderstorm is immeasurable.

Thunderheads can reach 60,000ft & cover 200 sq/mi.
T-storms drop ave~ of 125K gallons of falling water.
1”/1 acre of ground=27154 gal at 113 tons of water.

Wouldn’t life be boring without storms?
We refer to Problems as Storms in our lives.

Everybody is in 1 of 3 Places Right Now.

You are IN a Storm now.

You are Coming OUT of a Storm.

You are Heading INTO a Storm

Wouldn’t life be boring without problems?

I Don’t Know, but I would Like to Try it!

God promises to cause us to be victorious.

(2 Cor 2:14) *Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ,*

Paul is heading into a Storm:

Explain the Scene of Acts 26 & 27:1-8

Paul Thought He was going to Rome 1st Class, or at least Coach, instead Paul is traveling on a Cargo ship

(Vs 9-10) God gives his preacher a message.

Paul warns them of the perils, & no one listens.

(3rd Universal Laws)

Reap What You Sow!

Play with Fire, you will get burned, Can’t Sin & Win
Don’t listen to the Preacher, he don’t know nothing.

We all have storms.

Storms in our Marriage, Kids, Health, Friends,
Finances, Career, Ministry.

4 Kinds of Storms:

(Matt 5:45) **Normal Storms as part of Nature.**

God taketh it rain on the just & the unjust alike

(Jonah 1-2) **Storms of our making by disobedience**

(Mat 8:18) **Storms God sends us into for our Good**

(Acts 27:9) **Storms we are dragged into by others**

Children of Ungodly parents.

Citizens of Ungodly National Leadership.

Feels like we are a prisoner on the Ship of State

We All Have Storms:

The thunder claps, Winds blow, Turbulence Builds.

I had goals, but the storms came.

I had plans, but the storms came.

5 Ways to Make a Bad Decision in a Storm/Anytime

1. (Vs 9) **Make a Decision in Haste**

-When much time had past

2. (Vs 11) **Make decision on the World's Wisdom.**

We are no different than the Ship Master,
Self-Sufficient & Self Dependent

3. (Vs 12a) **Take the Easy way Out.**

Not Commodious to winter in,

*The hard thing & right thing is usually the same thing
The Hard Right or the Easy Wrong.*

(Vs 12b) **Just Follow the Crowd-**

“The more part advised to depart”

The Majority is almost Always Wrong!

The 10 Spies (Num 13-14)

People wanted a King (1 Sam 8-10)

The Mob shouted for Barabbas: (Matt 27:20-)

The Majority is people pooling their ignorance.

(vs 37) 275 Voted Go, 1 lone voice said NO!

(Vs 13) **Depend upon Circumstances.**

(Vs 14 -15a) They couldn't Control the Ship!

(Vs 15) *“Let her drive”* - Dreams Dissolve

At the Mercy of Forces they cannot understand

(Vs 16) Labor with a Desperate Effort.

Satan lies & tells you that being a Christian is hard.

Its Not, you are just used to relying on your flesh.

Fleshly efforts don't Work in the Storm.

(Vs 18) Resources are Wasted.

Paul is on a cargo ship.

It's Primary function is to transport goods.

We all get so busy: with each commitment we make,
God & His service become less & less important.

People Work and they Waste!

People Work & lose their Family & Health

Spend their wealth getting back their Family & Heath
(What a Waste)

We throw away so much food, no one ever need go
to bed hungry again.

We don't need a war on Poverty, but a war on Sin
(Ps 35:27) *Let the LORD be magnified, which hath
pleasure in the prosperity of his servant.*

(Vs 19) They dumped The Tackling overboard.
Tackling is what make the ship work!
Their ropes, Charts, Sextant, Surveys, Compass

In a Storm, Don't dump your Integrity!
Don't stop Bible Reading, it makes life work!
Don't stop Praying, it makes life work!
Don't stop Attending Church, makes life work!
Don't stop Tithing, it makes life work!
Don't stop Witnessing, it makes life work!

(Vs 20) ***Their Sun & Stars went Out.***
Didn't have modern equipment: GPS & Radar.
They navigated by the Sun/Moon/Stars.

What do you do when your starts go out?
When the Sky is dark, & you can't see whats ahead?

Your Attitude Makes the Difference:

Bartholomew Dias in 1487, sailed to South Africa, &
went around the cape on a stormy sea. His ship
almost went to pieces; he called it Cape of Storms.

But Vasco da Gama, in 1498, changed the name to
the Cape of Good Hope, for he saw ahead of him the
jewels & treasures of India.

You can call this a life of storms if you wish.
But if you can, by Faith, see the riches of Grace, you
can call it a life of Good Hope

Storms Drive Us To God: (Ps 119:67) *Before I was
afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word.*
We are prone to stray from God when its smooth
sailing “& the South Wind blows softly”.

*“Prone to wander Lord I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love.”*

(Ps 120:1) *“In my distress I cried unto the LORD,
and he heard me.”*

Sometimes It Takes a Storm to bring me to God!

We take important things for granted, until it hits.
Then... “Lord Help Me!” “Lord Guide Me!”
“Lord Deliver Me!” “Lord Save Me!”
“Lord Forgive Me!”

We don't even try when the “South Wind” blows.
Only in the midst of a storm are we serious.

Do we really need God any less in the easy times?
Storm passes, so does our commitment & promises.

Storms Add Value to our Walk with God, by increasing our Faith.

The Christian Life is supposed to be a life of
Increasing Faith!
(Heb 10:38) *the just shall live by faith:*

When our faith is increased, HOPE is produced.

(Vs 21) During the storm, Paul got alone with God
(Vs 22) Paul Got a Message From God!
(Vs 23-24) I Love Paul's Certainty:
God gave me a certain # of things to accomplish for
Him in my Life; I am so far behind, I may never die!

3 Types of People in the Storm

The Afraid, - The Too Ignorant to be afraid.
& Those who know their bible!
(Heb 11:1,6) Believing Regardless of what we see.
With every Opportunity there comes a Storm.
With Every Storm is an Opportunity.

(Mark 6): Jesus walked on the water in Storm
This gave the disciples a new vision of Who He is!

(Mark 6:52) He just fed 5k by multiplying bread/fish
That should have increased their faith.
Their faith was not build/increased by Miracles,
So God brought in the Storm!

God shows us miracles all the time, but we don't
recognize it and our faith goes unaffected.
So God brings in the Storm!

Peter Got an Opportunity in the Storm!

(Vs 25-26) There's still some discomfort in a storm.
Every Storm Exacts a Price!
(Vs22b) - *But of the Ship*

People Try & use Fleshly Escapes in a Storm:

(Vs 27-32) They tried to Escape with a life raft.
Explain the Dingy, tied to the front of the ship.
Pretending to cast an anchor out of the bow.

In the midst of a Storm, instead of clinging to Jesus,
they use Fleshly, Sinful, Selfish Escapes.

What's your GO TO in a Storm?

Drinking? Toilet/Sewer w/liquid stupid?
Clubbing? Just got to feel pretty again?
Pills? Just want to go Numb?
HBO/ Sin To The Max/Netflix -

Don't Make Life Altering Decisions in a Storm:

This was a Storm they were Warned about!
You Created this Storm!
Now you want life boat to get out of it.
That's Selfishness!

Divorce is Selfishness

Like a child, who in anger runs away from home!

Suicide is not a Way Out of a Storm!

It Never Solves the Problem.

Everyone Else is NOT BETTER OFF w/o you!

(Vs 33-37) **Take Care of Yourself in the Storm**

Don't Compound the Storm with Self Pity & destructive Behavior.

Continue your daily routine.

Don't Hide in bed - w/KFC Hair & Yoga pants?

Put down the Ice Cream/Deep Fryer/Oreos!

Get alone with Jesus & have a little faith!

Storms Rid our lives of excess baggage: (Vs 38)

We all busy people!

We have activities that take up our time.

Hobbies, Interests, Projects.

Nothing sinful, just consumes Time & Resources

(Heb 12:1-2) - Called - *Weights*

God allows a Storm so we willing to pitch non-essential things overboard.

God sends the storm to get us to unload those things that have taken precedence over Him & His service.

Don't Toss your Marriage Overboard

Don't Toss your Training your Kids Overboard.

Don't Toss your Church Attendance Overboard

Don't Toss your Service to God Overboard.

Real value in Life is not found in things, but people!

How long has it been since we asked God to look into our lives and reveal to us the weights that are keeping us from serving Him as we should?

Only a heart of courage can ask this type of question.

A Storm brings the Brokenness necessary for a person to cast weights aside.

Pitchout the junk that keeps us from serving God as we should.

Don't try to Run from the storm to another Church, It wont go away. ***Wherever you go, there you are!***

Don't try to Hide from the storm by laying out of church, It wont go away.

Don't ignore the storm, it won't go away.

Instead, Harness the Power of the Storm to change your Life!

Trust God has a purpose in it.

Get alone with God:

Ask God to reveal the baggage in your life.

Have the courage to Throw it overboard.