#### **♦**SERMON NOTES **♦**

Sunday, July 15, 2012

# "CAUGHT IN THE STORM"

(Acts 27:13-26)

In their journey to Rome, Paul and his traveling companions found themselves caught in a storm. God has great room to grow us to be more like Christ and to make Himself known to us in the storm. We will also explore some key anchors for the storms.

"God, you're my last chance of the day. I spend the night on my knees before you. Put me on your salvation agenda; take notes on the trouble I'm in. I've had my fill of trouble; I'm camped on the edge of hell. I'm written off as a lost cause, one more statistic, a hopeless case. Abandoned as already dead, one more body in a stack of corpses, And not so much as a gravestone— I'm a black hole in oblivion. You've dropped me into a bottomless pit, sunk me in a pitch-black abyss. I'm battered senseless by your rage, relentlessly pounded by your waves of anger. You turned my friends against me, made me horrible to them. I'm caught in a maze and can't find my way out, blinded by tears of pain and frustration" (Psalm 88:1-9, The Message).

1. Anchor #1: Do you	?
"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, people belonging to God, that you may declare the proceeding you out of darkness into his wonderful light" (1	aises of him who
2. Anchor #2: Do you	?
"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Joworks, which God prepared in advance for us to do" NIV).	
3. Anchor #3: Do you	?
"Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and	all these things

"Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you" (Matthew 6:33, NASB).

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"Men, I perceive that the voyage will certainly be with damage and great loss, not only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our lives" (Acts 27:10, NASB).

"I have seen that fools may be successful for the moment, but then comes sudden disaster" (Job 5:3, NLT).

"Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God" (Psalm 20:7, ESV).

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus" (Hebrews 12:1-2, NLT).

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# 1. Anchor #1: Do you belong to God?

"Then the sailors became afraid and every man cried to his god, and they threw the cargo which was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone below into the hold of the ship, lain down and fallen sound asleep. So the captain approached him and said, 'How is it that you are sleeping? Get up, call on your god. Perhaps your god will be concerned about us so that we will not perish'" (Jonah 1:5-6, NASB).

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light" (1 Peter 2:9, NIV).

"The LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend" (Exodus 33:11, NLT).

# 2. Anchor #2: Do you serve God?

"What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, 'You have faith; I have deeds.' Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that —and shudder" (James 2:14-19, NIV).

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Ephesians 2:10, NIV).

## 3. Anchor #3: Do you trust God?

"Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you" (Matthew 6:33, NASB).

"I will lift up my eyes to the mountains; from where shall my help come? My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth. He will not allow your foot to slip. He who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, He who keeps Israel Will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is your keeper. The Lord is your shade on your right hand. The sun will not smite you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will protect you from all evil. He will keep your soul. The Lord will guard your

going out and your coming in from this time forth and forever" (Psalm 121:1-8, NASB).