

“LORD OF THE STORM”

Part Three

I. Finding Our Story in God’s Story

A. “Stormology”-The Study of Spiritual “Storms”

1. In the first two messages on Jesus as “Lord of the Storm”, we drew lessons for life from Matthew 8 & Matthew 14.

2. Today, we’ll move over to Acts 27, and draw out some “types” and “shadows”, insights on how what happened to Paul in the natural illustrates spiritual lessons for us:

Prophetic Types From Acts 27

Paul represents the **Church** or the individual Christ-follower

The **Ship** is the **world system** or “**security system**” that holds us as “prisoners”

The “**ship’s owner**” and Roman **soldiers** represent **those who seem to be in charge**

The “**wind**” is the **Holy Spirit**

Some went off to sea in ships, plying the trade routes of the world. They, too, observed the Lord's power in action, his impressive works on the deepest seas. He spoke, and the winds rose, stirring up the waves. Their ships were tossed to the heavens and plunged again to the depths; the sailors cringed in terror. They reeled and staggered like drunkards and were at their wits' end. Lord, help! they cried in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress. He calmed the storm to a whisper and stilled the waves.

Psalm 107:23-29 NASB

Praise the Lord from the earth, Sea monsters and all deeps; Fire and hail, snow and clouds; Stormy wind, fulfilling His word...

Psalm 148:7-8 NASB

a. God is absolutely sovereign over all things, *including the weather*-For man to think he can control things like “global warming” is a pathetic picture of how world systems think they be “as God” (See Genesis 3:1-6)

b. There are “ships” that will not make it! The current “global economy” and “global currency” being discussed are absolutely antichrist in nature and will be judged by God-man’s rejection of God’s law and the humanistic theology of faith in man in man for salvation and happiness will be shipwrecked by the “wind” of God Himself.

3. Read this chapter several times and you'll be amazed at what it will speak to you.

B. Lessons from the Storm

1. There are seasons in life where we are the "prisoners of the Lord".

***For the Lord hears the poor, and does not despise prisoners.
Psalm 69:33 KJV***

***And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison.
Genesis 39:20 KJV***

a. Think "confinement" or being in a situation where you are not "free" to do what you'd like to do.

b. Remember always that if you belong to God, you are never really a prisoner of man or circumstances; you are always a "prisoner of the Lord"!

***I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling
Ephesians 4:1 NASB***

2. There are storms we suffer in life because of the bad decisions of others.

***And when it was determined that we should sail into Italy, they delivered Paul and certain other prisoners unto one named Julius, a centurion of Augustus' band.
Acts 27:1 KJV***

***Now when much time was spent, and when sailing was now dangerous, because the fast was now already past, Paul admonished them, And said unto them, Sirs, I perceive that this voyage will be with hurt and much damage, not only of the lading and ship, but also of our lives,
Acts 27:10 KJV***

3. There are times when those who seem to be in control of you won't listen to you; even if you speak the word of the Lord, they won't believe you.

***Nevertheless the centurion believed the master and the owner of the ship, more than those things which were spoken by Paul.
Acts 27:11 KJV***

4. But let me give you a prophetic picture for the church of Jesus Christ, and for you and me as followers of Jesus...

- Problems can bring promotion
- Problems can't abort your purpose
- Storms move us into ministry

II. Three Principles of Acts 27

A. Problems Can Bring Promotion

1. Paul starts out as a prisoner but ends up as the one in charge!
2. Power is guarded by problems-God allows problems to come so that His overcomers can stand up and bring a solution.
3. Those who didn't listen to you before the storm who will seek you out when the going gets rough.
4. The world is in a mess because the Church has not been faithfully representing the Lordship of Christ and God's law-word as applicable to all men everywhere in all nations!
5. The vacuum created by a lack of Kingdom preaching has fueled the ascendancy of man-centered solutions that will only make the judgment winds of God blow harder.
6. The Bible is replete with stories of how God promoted through problems: Joseph, David, Daniel, etc.

B. Preserved For a Purpose

1. No one or no "thing" can kill you if God has a future purpose for you!
2. We all know stories of people who miraculously survived terminal illness, accidents, disasters or falls from high places. The only explanation is that God just wasn't through with them yet!

...as gale-force winds continued to batter the ship, the crew began throwing the cargo overboard. The following day they even took some of the ship's gear and threw it overboard. The terrible storm raged for many days, blotting out the sun and the stars, until at last all hope was gone. No one had eaten for a long time. Finally, Paul called the crew together and said, Men, you should have listened to me in the first place and not left Crete. You would have avoided all this damage and loss. But take courage! None of you will lose your lives, even though the ship will go down. For last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me, and he said, Don't be afraid, Paul, for you will surely stand trial before Caesar! What's more, God in his goodness has granted safety to everyone sailing with you. So take courage! For I believe God. It will be just as he said. But we will be shipwrecked on an island.

Acts 27:18-26 NLT

3. The "angel of the Lord" is speaking to us this morning—we will be preserved to fulfill our purpose!

4. Paul was told he would surely stand before Caesar, and this was prophetic for the church of Jesus Christ!

a. “Caesar” represents the world system that seems to be in power.

b. “Caesar is Lord” was the public greeting required of everyone under the rule of Rome. It was how they “saluted” each other. But for the Christians, “Jesus is Lord”. It was their refusal to acknowledge the sovereignty of the state that brought them imprisonment, persecution and death.

c. To this day, our ultimate allegiance is to the Kingdom of God and not to the state! We do not worship any President or political system:

5. We are destined to stand in opposition to world systems and refuse to give our unconditional allegiance to anyone but God:

- Not Republicans or Democrats
- Not Liberals or Conservatives
- Not Socialism or Capitalism

6. Paul’s purpose was to stand before Caesar in the same way the Church of Jesus Christ is destined to confront world systems! The issue is always about “WHO IS REALLY IN CHARGE?”

But some of the Jews were jealous, so they gathered some troublemakers from the marketplace to form a mob and start a riot. They attacked the home of Jason, searching for Paul and Silas so they could drag them out to the crowd. Not finding them there, they dragged out Jason and some of the other believers instead and took them before the city council. Paul and Silas have caused trouble all over the world, they shouted, and now they are here disturbing our city, too. And Jason has welcomed them into his home. They are all guilty of treason against Caesar, for they profess allegiance to another king, named Jesus.

Acts 17:5-9 NLT

a. Caesar wants to be Lord over all, including the Church.

b. Throughout world history, when government grows beyond its proper sphere as described in the Word of God, it must be vigorously confronted by Kingdom-centered believers.

c. The effect is always the same...

The people of the city, as well as the city council, were thrown into turmoil by these reports.

Who are we “throwing into turmoil” because of our radical faith in King Jesus?

III. Conclusion

- **Storms Move Us into Ministry**

And falling into a place where two seas met, they ran the ship aground; and the forepart stuck fast, and remained unmovable, but the hinder part was broken with the violence of the waves.

Acts 27:41 KJV

1. The story of the storms of the world is described here: a collision where “two seas meet”!

a. There are 2 “seeds” at war in this world (See Genesis 3)

b. There are 2 “kingdoms” in conflict

c. There are 2 “cities” being built: The “city of God” and the “city of man”

2. World systems will crash, but we will be spared *if* we have a ministry purpose.

And falling into a place where two seas met, they ran the ship aground; and the forepart stuck fast, and remained unmovable, but the hinder part was broken with the violence of the waves.

Acts 27:41 KJV

3. The “wind” of the Holy Spirit is driving us toward a ministry...

And when they had been brought safely through, then we found out that the island was called Malta. And the natives showed us extraordinary kindness...And after this had happened, the rest of the people on the island who had diseases were coming to him and getting cured. And they also honored us with many marks of respect; and when we were setting sail, they supplied us with all we needed.

Acts 28:1-2, 9-10 NASB

4. Storms test our faith; storms set us free and promote us for the purpose of ministry!

5. God sets us free to confront Caesar and minister to hurting people.

6. If we don't fulfill that purpose, we might as well go to heaven now!

7. In all 3 storms we looked at in this little series, at the end of the storm, ministry took place!

8. That's the message to you, to me and to the church of Jesus Christ:

- Are we preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom to world systems?
- Are we helping hurting people?
- Are we those who preach “another King, even Jesus”?