

WHEN A SETBACK ISN'T YOUR FAULT

How God Turns Setbacks into Comebacks
Rick Warren

Paul's Shipwreck at Malta: Acts 27:1-43

"The ship hit a sandbar and ran aground. The bow of the ship stuck fast, while the stern was exposed to the violence of the waves and began to break apart."

Acts 27:41 (TLB)

WHAT CAUSES PEOPLE TO MAKE POOR CHOICES THAT LEAD TO SETBACKS & STORMS?

• WHEN WE _____

"Much time had been lost, and sailing had already become dangerous because by now it was after the Day of Atonement. So Paul warned them, 'Men, I can see that our voyage is going to be disastrous and bring great loss to ship and cargo, and to our own lives also'" Acts 27:9-10 (NIV)

"But the officer in charge of the prisoners listened more to the ship's captain and the owner than to Paul." Acts 27:11 (NLT)

• WHEN WE _____

"Since the harbor was unsuitable to winter in, the majority decided that we should sail on, hoping to reach Phoenix and winter there. This was a harbor in Crete, facing both southwest and northwest." Acts 27:12 (NIV)

• WHEN WE _____

"When a gentle wind from the south started blowing, the men thought it was a good time to do what they had planned. So they pulled up the anchor, and we sailed along the coast of Crete." Acts 27:13 (CEV)

"But shortly afterwards the weather changed abruptly, and a heavy wind of typhoon strength (a "northeaster," they called it) caught the ship and blew it out to sea." Acts 27:14 (TLB)

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT STORMS?

1. STORMS CAN _____

"The wind carried the ship away, and we couldn't sail against the wind. We couldn't do anything, so we were carried along by the wind." Acts 27:15 (GW)

"They tied ropes around the ship to hold it together." Acts 27:17 (NCV)

2. STORMS CAN _____

"The next day, as gale-force winds continued to batter the ship, the crew began throwing all the cargo overboard. The following day they even took some of the ship's gear and threw it overboard." Acts 27:18-19 (NLT)

3. STORMS CAN _____

"The terrible storm raged for many days, blotting out the sun and the stars, until at last all hope was gone." Acts 27:20 (NLT)

WHAT SHOULD I REMEMBER WHEN IT FEELS HOPELESS?

How Can I Anchor My Life in a Storm?

1ST ANCHOR: THE PRESENCE OF GOD

• REMEMBER _____

"Finally, Paul called the crew together and said, 'Men, if you had listened to me . . . 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.'" Acts 27:21-23 (NIV)

2ND ANCHOR: THE PURPOSE OF GOD

• REMEMBER _____

(Paul) "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.'" Acts 27:24 (NLT)

3RD ANCHOR: THE PROMISE OF GOD

• REMEMBER _____

"So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island."

Acts 27:25-26 (NIV)

"And as the sailors were seeking to escape from the ship, and had lowered the ship's boat into the sea under pretense of laying out anchors from the bow, Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, "Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved." Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the ship's boat and let it go." Acts 27:30-32 (ESV)

"Now I urge you to take some food. You need it to survive. Not one of you will lose a single hair from his head.' After he said this, he took some bread and gave thanks to God in front of them all. Then he broke it and began to eat. They were all encouraged." Acts 27:34-36 (NIV)

"the officer, wanted to let Paul live and did not allow the soldiers to kill the prisoners. Instead he ordered everyone who could swim to jump into the water first and swim to land. 44 The rest were to follow using wooden boards or pieces of the ship. And this is how all the people made it safely to land."

Acts 27:43-44 (NCV)