

AS WE APPROACH THE SHORE
(Acts 27:22-44)

I. Sink in your anchor (vs. 29).

- A. Fearing that they would crash on the rocks, the crew threw out four anchors.
- B. The reason they did this was for stability.
- C. The ship could only move as far as those four anchors let it.
- D. We need to be people of stability, especially later in life.
 - 1. Ephesians 4:14.
 - 2. James 1:6-7.
- E. There have always been those that try to deceive in order to carry off others with them.
 - 1. Acts 20:30-31.
 - 2. Galatians 1:6-7.
- F. Elderly are targeted more than any other group.
- G. If our anchor is sunk on the Rock, then there will be stability.

II. Stay in the ship (vs. 30-31).

- A. Some were going to get off of the ship and try to make it.
- B. They would have been crushed by the waves.
- C. We must stay faithful to the Lord's church.
 - 1. Revelation 2:10.
 - 2. Acts 4:12.
- D. The devil seeks to cause us to question God and look for answers elsewhere.
- E. If we leave the Lord, then the waves of life will crush us.
- F. There is safety in the Father's hand (John 10:28-30).
- G. What if Noah had gotten off the ark before it was time?

III. Keep yourself fit (vs. 33-34).

- A. The crew needed to eat in order to keep up their strength.
- B. Sometimes there is nothing we can do about physical ailments.
- C. There are things we can do to keep spiritually fit.
 - 1. We cannot stay fit concentrating on the storms.
 - 2. We cannot stay fit concentrating on other people's storms.
 - 3. We can stay fit by keeping our eyes on the prize (2 Corinthians 4:16-5:1).
- D. We must stay in the word of God.
- E. We don't need to stop being involved in the work of the church.

IV. Keep your spirits up (vs. 35-36).

- A. One version renders this phrase "This raised the spirits of all."
- B. In hard times, if spirits are down, we tend to drift away.
- C. There are ways to keep up our spirits.
 - 1. We should focus on the mercy and grace of God (Ephesians 2:4-7).
 - 2. We should turn to the scriptures for comfort (Romans 15:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:18).
 - 3. We should look to our brethren for help (2 Corinthians 7:6).

- D. We need to be people that bring comfort to others.
 1. Proverbs 12:25; 16:24.
 2. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4.
 - E. We can keep our spirits up by bringing comfort to others.
 - F. How many times have we done something good for someone else and then realized we felt better as well?
- V. Get rid of unnecessary baggage (vs. 38).**
- A. The lightened load allowed the ship to stay higher in the water.
 - B. This would also help to run the ship higher on the shore if they beached the ship.
 - C. If we want to make it to heaven, we must rid ourselves of unnecessary baggage.
 - D. We won't make it to heaven holding grudges.
 1. Matthew 5:21-26.
 2. Many Christians will end up in hell because of this sin.
 - E. We won't make it with bad habits.
 1. We need to quit using tobacco.
 2. We need to stop using foul language or going places we ought not.
 - F. We won't make it with bad attitudes.
 - G. All of these things will weigh us down and cause us to sink in the storms of life.
- VI. Realize there will be some rough times (vs. 41).**
- A. They thought that they were about to make it to shore.
 - B. However, the ship started to break up when they ran aground.
 - C. As we get older, it seems that there are more and more storms.
 1. Maybe the death of a spouse.
 2. Maybe some disease.
 3. Maybe the death of a child.
 4. It may be a great number of things.
 - D. We need to be sure that we are already prepared before they happen or else it may be too late.
 - E. Wouldn't it be terrible to be faithful for many years and then give up because of some storm late in life?
- VII. You will make it safe to land (vs. 44).**
- A. These men all made it safe to dry land.
 - B. They did not lose anyone.
 - C. I want to be in heaven with each one of you.
 - D. There is a place prepared for us that our feeble human minds cannot comprehend.
 - E. We can make it safely if we do these things we've mentioned.

From a sermon outline by Wendell Winkler