

Aveleigh's Veterans Recognition Sunday Memorial Day Weekend 5/28/17
Your Year of Worship
Texts: Mat. 8:23-27 p. 1043 & Acts 27:9-26 p. 1201
Sermon: HOW TO BE CONFIDENT IN A CRISIS

Intro: Life is like a voyage –
and often our ship encounters unexpected storms. From an actual storm that Paul faced at sea,
we can see an example of ***HOW TO STAY CONFIDENT IN A CRISIS***.

I. WHY WE EXPERIENCE "STORMS" IN LIFE

* WE LISTEN TO THE WRONG EXPERTS.
(vs. 11) *"... they followed the advice of the pilot and owner..."*

* WE JUST SETTLE ON DOING WHAT IS POPULAR.
(vs. 12) *"... the majority decided that we should sail..."*

* WE RELY ON CIRCUMSTANCES.
(vs. 13) *"When a gentle south wind began to blow, they thought they had obtained what they wanted..."*

II. HOW "STORMS" TEND TO AFFECT OUR LIVES

1. STORMS CAUSE US TO DRIFT.
(vs. 15, 17) *"... so we gave way to it and were driven along..."*

2. STORMS CAUSE US TO DISCARD WHAT WAS ONCE PRECIOUS.
(vs. 18-19) *"... they began to throw the cargo overboard..."*

3. STORMS DRIVE US TO DESPAIR AND LOSE FAITH
(vs. 20) *"... we finally gave up all hope of being saved..."*

III. WHAT TO HOLD ONTO IN A "STORM".

1st Anchor: **THE PRESENCE OF GOD**

(vs. 23) *"... an angel of God stood beside me..."*

Storms cannot hide _____

2nd Anchor: **THE PURPOSE OF GOD**

(vs. 24) *"... Don't be afraid... you must stand before Caesar..."*

Storms cannot change _____

3rd Anchor: -- **GOD'S PROMISE**

(vs. 25) *"... I have faith in God that it will happen just as He told me..."*

Storms cannot destroy _____

Conclusion: In this way everyone reached land safely. (vs 44)

PRAYER: Loving God, Help me to stand with you always and be confident in the crisis. Amen

Four For Your Road Ahead:

1. What is special about this weekend?
2. Where is Christ at work this weekend?
3. How does that help you to be confident in a crisis?
4. Could you share that confidence with anyone in a crisis this week?

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Call to worship:

Leader: We come before God, not to glorify war,

People: but to honor and celebrate those who walked into the crisis:

Leader: those who were civilians and those who were military;

People: those who braved the censure of society

Leader: and those who gave of themselves as Christ gave his life for all;

People: those who survived and those who did not;

Leader: those who were friends and those who were enemies.

People: None who have waded through evil, death and sorrow
are untouched in body, mind or spirit;

Leader: But we are all beloved of God.

Prayer of Confession:

Merciful Savior, we are short-sighted and forgetful, and we are sorry. With a word you created all that is, and your word still has power to deliver us from storms of doubt and fear. But, we fail to call on you. We rely on our own resources rather than trust yours. We muddle along in weakness, forgetting how readily available to us is your strength. Deliver us, gracious God. Calm the storm within us by being our peace, and renew us in love and trust. For the sake of Christ, we pray.