

# UNSHAKEABLE

## LIFE DRIFT

Acts 27

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### MESSAGE NOTES

*And when it was decided that we should sail for Italy, they delivered Paul and some other prisoners to a centurion of the Augustan Cohort named Julius. And embarking in a ship of Adramyttium, which was about to sail to the ports along the coast of Asia, we put to sea, accompanied by Aristarchus, a Macedonian from Thessalonica. The next day we put in at Sidon. And Julius treated Paul kindly and gave him leave to go to his friends and be cared for. And putting out to sea from there we sailed under the lee of Cyprus, because the winds were against us. And when we had sailed across the open sea along the coast of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we came to Myra in Lycia. There the centurion found a ship of Alexandria sailing for Italy and put us on board. We sailed slowly for a number of days and arrived with difficulty off Cnidus, and as the wind did not allow us to go farther, we sailed under the lee of Crete off Salmone. Coasting along it with difficulty, we came to a place called Fair Havens, near which was the city of Lasea. Since much time had passed, and the voyage was now dangerous because even the Fast was already over, Paul advised them, ... — Acts 27:1 – 9 (ESV)*

*"... Sirs, I perceive that the voyage will be with injury and much loss, not only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our lives." But the centurion paid more attention to the pilot and to the owner of the ship than to what Paul said. — Acts 27:10 – 11 (ESV)*

*Since we were violently storm-tossed, they began the next day to jettison the cargo. And on the third day they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands. When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope of our being saved was at last abandoned. — Acts 27:18 – 20 (ESV)*

*"Yet now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. For this very night there stood before me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship, and he said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you.' So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told. But we must run aground on some island." — Acts 27:22 – 26 (ESV)*

*As day was about to dawn, Paul urged them all to take some food, saying, "Today is the fourteenth day that you have continued in suspense and without food, having taken nothing. Therefore I urge you to take some food. For it will give you strength, for not a hair is to perish from the head of any of you." And when he had said these things, he took bread, and giving thanks to God in the presence of all he broke it and began to eat. Then they all were encouraged and ate some food themselves. — Acts 27:33– 36 (ESV)*



**Life saving responses when life goes adrift:**

- **Move toward thanksgiving especially in the face of difficulty**

*And when he had said these things, he took bread, and giving thanks to God in the presence of all he broke it and began to eat. Then they all were encouraged and ate some food themselves. – Acts 27:35 – 36 (ESV)*

*The following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about Me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome." – Acts 23:11 (ESV)*

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." – Acts 1:8 (ESV)*

**The path to spiritual growth rarely feels like a straight line, instead it's full of zigzags of grace, so remain faithful.**

*"I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." – John 16:33 (ESV)*

- **Move toward God's glory especially in the face of confusion**
- **Move toward the anchor of God's Word especially in the face of uncertainty**

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Discussion Starter: If you were lost at sea on a life raft, what survival tool would you most want to have in your raft?
- Our memory verse for the book of Acts is Acts 1:8: *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."* Try reciting the verse from memory. Why is this verse so significant in the book of Acts and in our lives today?
- When life goes adrift and we are facing unknowns, why is giving thanks to God such a powerful, lifesaving response?
- Read Acts 27:23 – 25. God has given Paul a message of hope and Paul shares that encouragement with others. What message of hope has God been speaking into your life recently?
- Pastor Jon said, *"The path to spiritual growth rarely feels like a straight line, instead it's full of zigzags of grace, so remain faithful."* Why is God's spiritual growth plan for us not the straight line we often expect it to be? How is God revealing His grace in your life through a recent shipwreck or side-wreck experience you didn't see coming?
- What are some of the anchor verses that God has used to keep you close to Him when life feels adrift?
- How has God spoken to you through Acts 27 and the journey of the Apostle Paul to Rome?
- Pray for God to call the right people to be a part of the ENCOUNTER staff team for our open positions. (Administrative Support and Worship Intern).