



# KINGDOM LIFE

*Study Notes by Valleta Lanier*

## How To Break Your Mistakes

In Acts 27, due to the mistake made by Paul of going to Jerusalem, he finds himself on a ship going to Rome, as a prisoner under guard, sent for trial. In the midst of this journey, we read about the continual mistakes made by the Centurion, Pilot, Captain, and crew of the ship. In spite of all these mistakes, God still speaks, and God still has a plan of escape and rescue. It is the Kingdom Life plan of God. God wants us to get in on His plan BEFORE we make mistakes. But, if you find yourself in a tough situation, because of bad choices, knowing that you have made a big mistake, God has a plan! He is still with you, even if you are in the midst of a shipwreck!

### THE ENEMY IN THE STORM

The enemy of God loves to use our mistakes as an open door to destroy us. Let's look at 6 ways the storm is used to try to destroy them, and how the storm could represent the enemy working in our lives, in the midst of a mistake. You will notice the storm starts slow, and then sets a trap! Remember, all of this is happening because of a mistake Paul made by going to Jerusalem.

#### 1. Contrary Winds - Opposing Wind!

4 And from there we put out to sea and sailed under the shelter of Cyprus because **the winds were contrary**.

5 And when we had sailed through the sea along the coast of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we landed at Myra in Lycia.

6 And there the centurion found an Alexandrian ship sailing for Italy, and he put us aboard it.

7 And when we had **sailed slowly** for a good many days, and **with difficulty had arrived off Cnidus**, since **the wind did not permit us to go farther**, we sailed under the shelter of Crete, off Salmone;

8 and **with difficulty sailing past it** we came to a certain place called Fair Havens, near which was the city of Lasea.

9 And when **considerable time had passed** and **the voyage was now dangerous**, since even the fast was already over, Paul began to admonish them,

1. Slow
2. Difficult
3. Dangerous
4. Time Consuming

## 2. Man's Voice - The Power of Persuasion

11 But the centurion was **more persuaded** by **the pilot** and **the captain** of the ship, than by what was being said by Paul.

12 And because the harbor was not suitable for wintering, **the majority** reached a decision to put **out to sea** from there, if somehow they could reach Phoenix, a harbor of Crete, facing southwest and northwest, and spend the winter there.

1. The Pilot – Navigator of the seas.
2. The Captain – Authority of the ship.
3. The Majority – Is not always right!

## 3. Moderate Wind – Reasonable Wind!

13 And when **a moderate south wind came up**, **supposing that they had gained their purpose**, they weighed anchor and began sailing along Crete, close inshore.

1. Deceiving

## 4. Violent Wind – Extreme Wind!

14 But **before very long** there **rushed down from the land a violent wind**, called Euraquilo;  
15 and when **the ship was caught in it**, and **could not face the wind**, **we gave way to it, and let ourselves be driven along**.

16 And running under the shelter of a small island called Clauda, **we were scarcely able to get the ship's boat under control**.

17 And after they had hoisted it up, they used supporting cables in undergirding the ship; and **fearing that they might run aground** on the shallows of Syrtis, **they let down the sea anchor, and so let themselves be driven along**.

1. A Trap
2. No resistance
3. Driven by the wind.
4. Controlled by the wind.
4. Produces fear

## 5. Violent Storm – Intense Storm!

18 The next day as **we were being violently storm-tossed**, they began to **jettison the cargo**;

19 and on the third day they **threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands**.

20 And since **neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small storm was assailing us**, from then on **all hope of our being saved was gradually abandoned**.

21a And when they had **gone a long time without food**,...

1. Cargo gone - Loss of supply
2. Tackle gone - Loss of control
3. Sun and stars gone - Loss of guidance
4. Gradually taken away - Loss of hope
5. Food gone – Loss of strength

## **6. The Reef – To Kill, Steal & Destroy**

41 **But striking a reef** where two seas met, they ran the vessel aground; and the **prow stuck fast and remained immovable**, but **the stern began to be broken up by the force of the waves** .

42 And the soldiers' plan was to **kill the prisoners**, that none of them should swim away and escape;

1. Prow stuck – Removing of the ability to move in God's plan, stealing what God had for you.
2. Stern broken – Everything is destroyed.
3. Kill the prisoners – The plan of the enemy is, through your mistakes, to kill you.

## **GOD TO THE RESCUE**

In the midst of mistakes we make, God is always there. He never leaves. He has a plan to rescue you, and set your feet on solid ground! Let's see how God spoke through Paul in the midst of this tough situation.

### **God's Voice - The Warning**

10 and said to them, *"Men, I perceive that the voyage will certainly be attended with damage and great loss, not only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our lives."*

### **God's Voice - The Plan**

21b ...then Paul stood up in their midst and said, *"Men, you ought to have followed my advice and not to have set sail from Crete, and incurred this damage and loss.*

22 *"And yet now I urge you to keep up your courage, for there shall be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship.*

23 *"For this very night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood before me,*

24 *saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar; and behold, God has granted you all those who are sailing with you.'*

25 *"Therefore, keep up your courage, men, for I believe God, that it will turn out exactly as I have been told.*

26 *"But we must run aground on a certain island."*

### **God's Voice – Guidance**

31 Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, *"Unless these men remain in the ship, you yourselves cannot be saved."*

## BREAK MISTAKES

God wants you to break the cycle of mistakes. Will we ever be free of mistakes? No. But they can become fewer and fewer. We have choices to make. Those choices determine what direction our life travels. God will always be there, but life can be full of abundance if we seek to break the mistake cycle. Let's look again in Acts 27 at this real life situation of the ship wreck, and see how they took action to break their mistake. Then we can learn from this experience to turn their action into life changing spiritual action for our lives, as we **Break the Mistakes!**

Acts 27

27 But when the fourteenth night had come, as **we were being driven about in the Adriatic Sea**, about midnight the sailors **began to surmise that they were approaching some land.**

28 And **they took soundings, and found it to be twenty fathoms; and a little farther on they took another sounding and found it to be fifteen fathoms.**

29 And fearing that we might run aground somewhere on the rocks, **they cast four anchors from the stern and wished for daybreak.**

30 And as the sailors were trying to escape from the ship, and had let down the ship's boat into the sea, on the pretense of intending to lay out anchors from the bow,

32 Then the soldiers **cut away the ropes of the ship's boat**, and **let it fall away.**

33 And until the day was about to dawn, **Paul was encouraging them all** to take some food, saying, "Today is the fourteenth day that you have been constantly watching and going without eating, having taken nothing.

34 "Therefore I encourage you to take some food, for this is for your preservation; for not a hair from the head of any of you shall perish."

35 And having said this, he took bread and **gave thanks to God** in the presence of all; and **he broke it and began to eat.**

36 And all of them were encouraged, and **they themselves also took food.**

37 And all of us in the ship were two hundred and seventy-six persons.

38 And when they had eaten enough, they began to **lighten the ship by throwing out the wheat into the sea.**

39 And when day came, **they could not recognize the land**; but they did observe a certain bay with a beach, and **they resolved to drive the ship onto it** if they could.

40 And **casting off the anchors, they left them in the sea** while at the same time **they were loosening the ropes of the rudders**, and **hoisting the foresail to the wind**, they were heading **for the beach.**

43 but the centurion, wanting to bring Paul safely through, **kept them from their intention**, and commanded that those who could swim should **jump overboard first and get to land,**

44 and the rest should follow, some on planks, and others on various things from the ship. And thus it happened that **they all were brought safely to land.**

## How to Break Your Mistakes:

1. They surmised there was land! **Look for God!**
2. They took soundings! **Build your faith!**
3. They wished for the light of day! **Watch for His way of escape!**
4. They cut away the life boats! **Cut away anything that does not cause you to depend on Him! Let it fall away!**
5. Paul was encouraging. **Listen for the voice of God through others!**
6. Paul gave thanks! **Praise and thank God!**
7. They ate! **Eat everything of God you can find! He is your sustenance!**
8. They threw out their food! **Throw away physical things that seem more important than Him!**
9. They resolved to drive the ship into the bay! **Be resolved to go God's way, even if you don't "see" land!**
10. They cast off and left the anchors! **Cast off anything that weighs you down, hindering you from following Him!**
11. They hoisted the sail and headed for land! **Hoist your "sail" into the wind of the Holy Spirit! Tell Him to fill your "sails"!**
12. When the sea tried to stop them, they jumped for their lives. **When the enemy hits, in the midst of your resolve, JUMP OVERBOARD! Don't stop! Give it all to God!**

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