

“BECAUSE LIVES ARE AT RISK...”

Acts 27:20-26

When a crisis occurs, most of us benefit from the work of first-responders. Police officers, fire fighters and paramedics rush to a crisis in order to save lives. The Church of Jesus Christ has been commissioned by the Lord with a similar task. Today, we turn our attention to five lessons from the story of Paul’s shipwreck that remind us how to respond when lives are at stake.

1. When Lives Are At Stake, Hope Reigns Supreme!

“When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved.” Acts 27:20

“... We who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.” Hebrews 6:18b-19a

2. When Lives Are At Stake, A Voice Of Authority Is Respected.

“After the men had gone a long time without food, Paul stood up before them and said: ‘Men, you should have taken my advice not to sail from Crete; then you would have spared yourselves this damage and loss.’” Acts 27:21

Jesus: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations....” Matthew 28:18-19a

3. When Lives Are At Stake, Courage Is Required.

“Now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost. So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as He told me.” Acts 27:22a,25

4. When Lives Are At Stake, Every Life Is Respected.

“...God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.” Acts 27:24b

“The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” 2 Peter 3:9

5. When Lives Are At Stake, Cost Is Re-calculated!

“We took such a violent battering from the storm that the next day they began to throw the cargo overboard. On the third day, they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands.” Acts 27:18,19

“The time has come for my departure. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” 2 Timothy 4:6b-7

CONCLUSION

- Will the choices of my life demonstrate that lives are always at stake?