

# The Mediterranean Sea Rules

## *The Same God Who Governs the Weather Can Guide You Through the Storms*

World Outreach Church  
Sermon Discussion Guide  
Sunday Sermon: **May 21, 2023**



**Pastor Robert J. Morgan**

Pastor Robert Morgan reminds us that God can always guide us through whatever comes our way and wherever we go, even though the worst storms and choppy waters. One of the greatest and lengthiest stories in the Bible, demonstrating God's ability to save us amid tempestuous circumstances, is Paul's Mediterranean Sea journey to Rome. It provides a vivid account of God's promise, God's guidance, and God's provision. *Pastor Morgan presents 10 biblical principles about navigating through life's tempestuous sea ...*

**Introduction:** The Rules Series ...

- 1. When Your Plans Collapse, Make Sure You Don't (Acts 27:1-2)**
- 2. Trust the Slow Work of God (Acts 27:3-9)**
- 3. Speak Your Mind Without Losing Your Leverage (Acts 27:9-12)**
- 4. Let Divine Grace Hold You Together (Acts 27:13-17)**
- 5. Jettison Hindering Cargo (Acts 27:18-19)**

**\*Describe a time in your life where you allowed impatience to rule your decision making rather than waiting on the Lord.**

### **6. Expect God to Do Exactly as He Has Said (Acts 27:20-26)**

Acts 27:20-26 <sup>20</sup>When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved. <sup>21</sup>After they 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.

<sup>22</sup>But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed. <sup>23</sup>Last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me <sup>24</sup>and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.' <sup>25</sup>So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. <sup>26</sup>Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island."

**\*How does knowing that the Lord is for you influence your belief in the impossible?**

### **7. Minister in The Moment (Acts 27:27-36)**

Acts 27:33-36 <sup>33</sup>Just before dawn Paul urged them all to eat. "For the last fourteen days," he said, "you have been in constant suspense and have gone without food—you haven't eaten anything. <sup>34</sup>Now I urge you to take some food. You need it to survive. Not one of you will lose a single hair from his head." <sup>35</sup>After he said this, he took some bread and gave thanks to God in front of them all. Then he broke it and began to eat. <sup>36</sup>They were all encouraged and ate some food themselves.

**\*What would it look like in your life to become more invested in God's Kingdom today?**

### **8. Don't Underestimate the One Percent (Acts 27:37-44)**

Acts 27:37-44 <sup>37</sup>Altogether there were 276 of us on board. <sup>38</sup>When they had eaten as much as they wanted, they lightened the ship by throwing the grain into the sea. <sup>39</sup>When daylight came, they did not recognize the land, but they saw a bay with a sandy beach, where they decided to run the ship aground if they could. <sup>40</sup>Cutting loose the anchors, they left them in the sea and at the same time untied the ropes that held the rudders. Then they hoisted the foresail to the wind and made for the

beach. <sup>41</sup> But the ship struck a sandbar and ran aground. The bow stuck fast and would not move, and the stern was broken to pieces by the pounding of the surf. <sup>42</sup> The soldiers planned to kill the prisoners to prevent any of them from swimming away and escaping.

<sup>43</sup> But the centurion wanted to spare Paul's life and kept them from carrying out their plan. He ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and get to land. <sup>44</sup> The rest were to get there on planks or on other pieces of the ship. In this way everyone reached land safely.

**\*When was a time in your life where you felt you had to stand alone for truth? What was the outcome?**

### 9. Shake the Serpent Into The Fire (Acts 28:1-6)

Acts 28:1-6 <sup>1</sup> Once safely on shore, we found out that the island was called Malta. <sup>2</sup> The islanders showed us unusual kindness. They built a fire and welcomed us all because it was raining and cold. <sup>3</sup> Paul gathered a pile of brushwood and, as he put it on the fire, a viper, driven out by the heat, fastened itself on his hand. <sup>4</sup> When the islanders saw the snake hanging from his hand, they said to each other, "This man must be a murderer; for though he escaped from the sea, the goddess Justice has not allowed him to live."

<sup>5</sup> But Paul shook the snake off into the fire and suffered no ill effects. <sup>6</sup> The people expected him to swell up or suddenly fall dead; but after waiting a long time and seeing nothing unusual happen to him, they changed their minds and said he was a god.

Matthew 6:13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the **evil one**.

John 17:15 My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the **evil one**.

Ephesians 6:16 ...Take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the **evil one**.

1 John 2:14 ...I am writing to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the **evil one**.

1 John 5:19 We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the **evil one**.

1 John 5:18 ...The One who was born of God keeps them safe, and the **evil one** cannot harm them.

2 Thessalonians 3:3 But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen you and protect you from the **evil one**.

**\*What are some ways you can "shake off" anger, guilt, fear, or shame rather than allowing those things to take root in your life?**

### 10. Look Around for What Christ Wants You To Do Next (Acts 28:7-31)

Acts 28:7-10 <sup>7</sup> There was an estate nearby that belonged to Publius, the chief official of the island. He welcomed us to his home and showed us generous hospitality for three days. <sup>8</sup> His father was sick in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him and, after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him. <sup>9</sup> When this had happened, the rest of the sick on the island came and were cured. <sup>10</sup> They honored us in many ways; and when we were ready to sail, they furnished us with the supplies we needed.

**\*How can you more effectively align your passions and agenda's to the Lord's?**

### Conclusion & Prayer:

*Jesus, Savior, pilot me  
Over life's tempestuous sea;  
Unknown waves before me roll,  
Hiding rock and treacherous shoal.  
Chart and compass come from Thee.  
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.*