



“About midnight on the fourteenth night of the storm, as we were being driven across the Sea of Adria, the sailors sensed land was near. Then the sailors tried to abandon the ship; they lowered the lifeboat as though they were going to put out anchors from the front of the ship. But Paul said to the commanding officer and the soldiers, “You will all die unless the sailors stay aboard.” So the soldiers cut the ropes to the lifeboat and let it drift away.”  
Acts 27:27, 30-32 NLT

## lectio // Acts 27:39-44

What an amazing story that brews up out of nowhere! This is not only a very specific story of faith but also of leadership. Paul is a PRISONER on board, not crew, not a passenger, and yet he leads an entire ship in crisis to safety. This is the moment of godly influence. How did Paul know they would be saved? When did Paul decide he had to tell the captain? Why did they believe Paul instead of relying on experience? Luke records the tense moments after they had cut all possibility of rescue on the lifeboats. “Just as day was dawning, Paul urged everyone to eat. “You have been so worried that you haven’t touched food for two weeks,” he said. “Please eat something now for your own good. For not a hair of your heads will perish.” Then he took some bread, gave thanks to God before them all, and broke off a piece and ate it. Then everyone was encouraged and began to eat — all 276 of us who were on board.” Then, as it looked like they might make it, the soldiers wanted to kill the prisoners, but the captain wanted to spare Paul! This story is a story of leadership in crisis. Leadership without titles, status or seamen experience. Leadership from God and from faith. How many of us are prepared to lead, by faith, when facing such enormous chaos and crisis.

## oratio

Dad,

Most would read this story and say, “yeah, but that was the Apostle Paul!” Same folks who say, “yeah, but that was Jesus.” None of us fully understanding how actively you work and do ALL the work, we just have to have faith and courageously act on it. Our families, friends, neighbors, cities and country need this kind of faith and courage especially in a crisis - one like the pandemic. Where were the men and women of faith during Covid-19? Was everyone scrambling for survival? I pray you lead and guide me to respond with more faith and courage for your glory and to save lives.

## contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root