AS WE APPROACH THE SHORE
(Acts 27:22-44)

I. Sink in your anchor (vs. 29).
   A. Fearing that they would crash on the rocks, the crew threw out four anchors.
   B. The reason they did this was for stability.
   C. The ship could only move as far as those four anchors let it.
   D. We need to be people of stability, especially later in life.
   E. There have always been those that try to deceive in order to carry off others with them.
   F. Elderly are targeted more than any other group.
   G. If our anchor is sunk on the Rock, then there will be stability.

II. Stay in the ship (vs. 30-31).
   A. Some were going to get off of the ship and try to make it.
   B. They would have been crushed by the waves.
   C. We must stay faithful to the Lord’s church.
      1. Revelation 2:10.
   D. The devil seeks to cause us to question God and look for answers elsewhere.
   E. If we leave the Lord, then the waves of life will crush us.
   F. There is safety in the Father’s hand (John 10:28-30).
   G. What if Noah had gotten off the ark before it was time?

III. Keep yourself fit (vs. 33-34).
   A. The crew needed to eat in order to keep up their strength.
   B. Sometimes there is nothing we can do about physical ailments.
   C. There are things we can do to keep spiritually fit.
      1. We cannot stay fit concentrating on the storms.
      2. We cannot stay fit concentrating on other people’s storms.
      3. We can stay fit by keeping our eyes on the prize (2 Corinthians 4:16-5:1).
   D. We must stay in the word of God.
   E. We don’t need to stop being involved in the work of the church.

IV. Keep your spirits up (vs. 35-36).
   A. One version renders this phrase “This raised the spirits of all.”
   B. In hard times, if spirits are down, we tend to drift away.
   C. There are ways to keep up our spirits.
      1. We should focus on the mercy and grace of God (Ephesians 2:4-7).
      2. We should turn to the scriptures for comfort (Romans 15:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:18).
      3. We should look to our brethren for help (2 Corinthians 7:6).
D. We need to be people that bring comfort to others.
   2. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4.
E. We can keep our spirits up by bringing comfort to others.
F. How many times have we done something good for someone else and then realized we felt better as well?

V. Get rid of unnecessary baggage (vs. 38).
A. The lightened load allowed the ship to stay higher in the water.
B. This would also help to run the ship higher on the shore if they beached the ship.
C. If we want to make it to heaven, we must rid ourselves of unnecessary baggage.
D. We won’t make it to heaven holding grudges.
   2. Many Christians will end up in hell because of this sin.
E. We won’t make it with bad habits.
   1. We need to quit using tobacco.
   2. We need to stop using foul language or going places we ought not.
F. We won’t make it with bad attitudes.
G. All of these things will weigh us down and cause us to sink in the storms of life.

VI. Realize there will be some rough times (vs. 41).
A. They thought that they were about to make it to shore.
B. However, the ship started to break up when they ran aground.
C. As we get older, it seems that there are more and more storms.
   1. Maybe the death of a spouse.
   2. Maybe some disease.
   3. Maybe the death of a child.
   4. It may be a great number of things.
D. We need to be sure that we are already prepared before they happen or else it may be too late.
E. Wouldn’t it be terrible to be faithful for many years and then give up because of some storm late in life?

VII. You will make it safe to land (vs. 44).
A. These men all made it safe to dry land.
B. They did not lose anyone.
C. I want to be in heaven with each one of you.
D. There is a place prepared for us that our feeble human minds cannot comprehend.
E. We can make it safely if we do these things we’ve mentioned.

From a sermon outline by Wendell Winkler