



AND THIS DAY WE SAILED ON

Ecclesiastes 9:11

11 I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race *is* not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all.

Matthew 10:22

22 And ye shall be hated of all *men* for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

INTRO:

Last year I read the “*Diario of Christopher Columbus’ First Voyage to America*”, written by *Bartolome de las Casas*.

It is an interesting account of the journey of the Nina, Pinta, and the Santa Maria from Spain to what he thought to be the Indies.

The first entry in his journal was made on the day of his departure,

Friday, August 3, 1492:

We departed Friday the third day of August of the year 1492 from the bar of Saltes at the eighth hour. We went south with a strong sea breeze 60 miles, which is 15 leagues, until sunset; afterward to the southwest and south by west, which was the route for the Canaries.

Saturday, August 4: They went southwest by south.

Sunday, August 5: They went on their way and between day and night made more than 40 leagues.

Monday, August 6: The rudder of the Pinta broke and the men began to quarrel and argue. Finally, they made between day and night 29 leagues!

Tuesday, August 7: The rudder again jumped its fastenings, but this day we traveled 25 leagues.

Wednesday, August 8: We would have liked to go to Gran Canaria to leave the badly damaged Pinta, because she leaked badly and had a damaged rudder. We were not able to reach it that day!

Thursday, August 9: We reached Gran Canaria and fixed the ship!

In spite of adverse circumstances and repeated problems, they sailed on!

On September 7, the diary states “All of Friday and on Saturday until the third hour of night we were in very light winds.” Not much happening!

Saturday, September 8: At the third hour of night on Saturday it commenced to blow from the northeast and he took

his course and his route to the west. He took much water over the bow, which hindered his way, and he made that day and night only nine leagues. But, on this day we sailed on!

Thursday, September 13: That day and night, going on their course, which was west, they made 33 leagues. The currents were against him.....but on this day we sailed on.

Saturday, September 15: “They sailed that day and night 27 leagues and a few more on their route west. And on this night, at the beginning of it, they saw a marvelous branch of fire fall from the sky into the sea, distant from them four or five leagues.

Monday, September 17: He sailed on his route west and made, day and night, somewhat more than 50 leagues. The current was helping them.

Friday, September 21: That day was mostly calm and later some wind. They made between day and night no more than 13 leagues, some of it on course and some not. But, this day we sailed on!

On Wednesday, September 26 they thought they saw land and spent an entire day sailing toward it only to discover that it was sky. But, this day they sailed on!

The thing that intrigues me the most about the Diary of Christopher Columbus is this: No matter what the day brought, at the end of practically each entry was this:

And this day we sailed on!

Some days nothing happened! It was an uneventful, probably boring and mundane day, **But this day we sailed on!**

In fact, there were many days when the only journal entry was this, **And we sailed westward on our course today.**

Some days the crew turned on each other and questioned the legitimacy of the mission- **but this day we sailed on!**

Some days the sea was calm and peaceful – **and on this day we sailed on.**

Some days the storms arose and we took water on board – **but this day we sailed on!**

SOMETHING POSSESSED CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS, A VISION OF WHAT COULD BE, A SENSE OF PURPOSE, WHATEVER IT WAS IT DROVE HIM ON IN THE FACE OF:

- ADVERSITY
- BOREDOM
- DIFFICULTY
- FIGHTING AMONG HIS OWN CREW
- DISAPPOINTMENTS,

At the end of each day he summed his journey up by saying, “And this day we sailed on!

It wasn’t easy – but we sailed on!

We suffered setbacks – but we sailed on!

We didn’t get to where we wanted to go today – but we sailed on!

We took on water today – but we sailed on!

We got a little off course – but we sailed on!

We chased after land that wasn’t there – but we sailed on!

At the end of the day we can say – this day we sailed on!

I.) IN OUR TEXT THIS MORNING, JOSEPH HAS A MISSION FOR HIS BROTHERS.

The typology of the story of Joseph as it relates to the story of Jesus is rich.

- Joseph was the beloved son of Jacob who was sacrificed to eventually save his family and his people from destruction.
- His father, Jacob, is a type of an unbelieving world who for years has heard rumors that his son is alive, but has seen no proof.
- So Joseph equips his brothers with
 1. gifts (Visible manifestation)
 2. Changes of raiment (Visible changes in appearance)
 3. Wagons loaded with food (For a hungry world)

But, I find it interesting that when Joseph was giving his brothers instructions for the journey, he did not feel compelled to tell them to:

- Be careful with the riches
- Be sure not to get their clothes dirty
- Be sure not to waste the food

The only thing he said to them was: BE SURE THAT YOU FALL NOT OUT BY THE WAY!

The gifts, and raiment, and food, and wagons would be useless if his brothers got sidetracked and never made it to Canaan!

The gifts, and raiment, and food, and wagons could take care of themselves if his brothers just got them to Jacob!

The most important part of the mission was that Joseph's brothers got to where they were supposed to go without getting sidetracked!

I'm sure they encountered sandstorms – but they pressed on!

I'm sure they encountered resistance – but they pressed on!

I'm sure they got tired and wanted to settle down along the way – but they pressed on!

I'm sure they may have looked at all that they had and the temptation may have been to say, “Why do we want to make the effort to go all the way back to Canaan when we have all we need right here? We have silver, gold, clothing, food enough to last us a long time – let's just settle here and enjoy the gifts of the King – but they pressed on!

I'm sure they probably fought along the way – but they pressed on!

Somehow they made it back to daddy's house,

And the Bible says in Genesis 45:27-28

27 And they told him all the words of Joseph, which he had said unto them: and when he saw the wagons which Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of Jacob their father revived: 28 And Israel said, *It is enough*; Joseph my son *is* yet alive: I will go and see him before I die.

It was the proof of Joseph's existence, the gifts, the change of clothing, the wagons that revived a weary Jacob and brought him into the palace to live as royalty.

But those gifts, and wagons were transported by ordinary people who just determined:

- No matter what happens, I will not fall out by the way!
- No matter what comes against me, I will sail on!

II.) WHAT GOD IS LOOKING FOR MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE IN US IS COMMITMENT AND PERSERVERANCE!

The instruction to the church in 2000 is the same instruction that Joseph gave his brothers in our text this morning.

- I have given you gifts
- I have given you a change of raiment
- I have given you food and caravans to take back to a world that doesn't even believe I am alive and My only instruction to you is this:

SEE THAT YOU FALL NOT OUT BY THE WAY!

You will encounter persecution – but sail on!

You will encounter problems – but sail on!

You will encounter criticism by your own brothers and sisters – but sail on!

Some days will be boring – sail on!

Some days will be perilous – sail on!

SEE THAT YOU FALL NOT OUT BY THE WAY!

Matthew 10:22

22 And ye shall be hated of all *men* for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

Have you ever entered your name in a drawing and read these words: **YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN?**

That is the stipulation to receiving a crown of life – you must be present to win!

Paul went to the chopping block, not with a spotless record, not with the testimony of a man who had never made a mistake, but his grateful refrain on the way to his graduation was this:

2 Timothy 4:7-8

7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith: 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

- I have made my mistakes – but I sailed on!
- I have been beaten – but I sailed on!
- I have been persecuted – but I sailed on!
- I have been shipwrecked – but I sailed on!

The time of my departure is at hand and my testimony is this: **I DID NOT FALL OUT BY THE WAY!**

Demas hath forsaken me having loved this present world – **BUT I SAILED ON!**

At my first answer no man stood with me – **BUT I SAILED ON!**

The temptation many times was to give up – **BUT I FINISHED THE COURSE, I DID NOT FALL OUT BY THE WAY, I SAILED ON!**

Job 17:9

9 The righteous also shall hold on his way, and he that hath clean hands shall be stronger and stronger.

God is looking for righteous people who will just hold their way! Our strength is gained by just holding our way!

Our strength is gained by just sailing on!

III.) **GOD IS LOOKING FOR PEOPLE WHO WILL SAIL ON THROUGH:**

· **Perilous times**

2 Timothy 3:1,14

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. Many will be turned away and proceed no further.

14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned *them*;

· **Tribulation**

John 16:33

33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

· **Anonymity**

1 Corinthians 15:58

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Others may not see your labor, but God does!

Some days the only entry in our spiritual journal is: *“And this day we sailed on!”*

We didn’t see any fire fall from the sky, we didn’t discover any new land, we didn’t hear the shouts of praise from the onlookers, we only sailed on!

But it is in those times that God is building character in us! It is in those times that God uses monotony to build perseverance in us!

An old carnal analogy says, *“Anyone can dance while the band is playing, but no one wants to stay around and clean up afterward!”*

Any preacher can preach when the crowds are whooping and hollering, but a man or woman of God is shapen in obscurity and silence!

God wants people who will be faithful in times of silence!

IV.) **IS THERE ANYONE THIS MORNING WHO IS JUST ABOUT READY TO THROW IN THE TOWEL?**

Let me tell you what you need to do this morning, you just need to sail on one more day!

I know that things are coming against you – but this day sail on!

I know that things are less than perfect in your life – but this day sail on!

I know the temptation is to give up and turn back – but this day sail on!

Revelation 2:10

10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

Just be faithful until the end and the crown is yours!

And this day – sail on!