

# Acts 27:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when the ship was caught, and could not bear up into the wind, we let her drive.

## Analysis

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**When the ship was caught, and could not bear up into the wind**—The Greek ἀντοφθαλμεῖν (antophthalmein, 'face into') suggests the ship couldn't turn its bow into the wind, the safest storm position. **We let her drive** (ἐπιδόντες ἐφερόμεθα, epidontes epherometha)—'giving way, we were carried along.' Human control surrendered to nature's violence. Luke shifts to 'we,' indicating his presence and participation in the terror. This forced drift mirrors spiritual reality: without Christ's anchor, we're driven by every wind of doctrine (Eph 4:14). The crew's helplessness foreshadows humanity's inability to save itself—only divine intervention (Paul's prophecy in 27:22-24) will rescue them.

## Historical Context

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Large grain ships (140-150 feet long, 30+ feet wide) were square-rigged vessels that couldn't sail close to the wind like modern boats. When caught broadside by a northeaster, they became helpless. The ship was driven southwest away from Crete toward the African coast and the dreaded Syrtis quicksands (27:17).

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. In what areas of life have you experienced the helplessness of being 'driven' by forces beyond your control?
2. How does surrendering human control in storms prepare you to receive divine intervention?

## Interlinear Text

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συναρπασθέντος δὲ τοῦ πλοίου καὶ μὴ δυναμένου  
**was caught** **And** **G3588** **when the ship** **and** **not** **could**  
G4884 G1161 G4143 G2532 G3361 G1410

ἀντοφθαλμεῖν τῷ ἀνέμῳ ἐπιδόντες ἐφερόμεθα  
**bear up into** **the wind** **we let her drive**  
G503 G3588 G417 G1929 G5342

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