

Acts 27:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the third day we cast out with our own hands the tackling of the ship.

Analysis

We cast out with our own hands the tackling of the ship—Desperation drives even passengers to jettison the ship's gear (Greek *skeuē*, equipment/tackle). The phrase 'with our own hands' (αὐτόχειρες) emphasizes personal participation in survival efforts, not just sailors' work. Luke's eyewitness detail captures the intensity: first the cargo (v. 18), now essential tackle—spare rigging, sails, perhaps even the mainsail yard. This progressive abandonment mirrors spiritual crisis where earthly securities must be released. Paul's calm amid chaos foreshadows his prophetic leadership emerging in verses 21-26.

Historical Context

Ancient Mediterranean ships carried extensive spare rigging, anchors, and tackle for emergencies. Jettisoning gear was a last resort that endangered future sailing capability but lightened the vessel in rough seas. This occurred during Paul's voyage to Rome as a prisoner (circa AD 59-60), three days into the northeaster called Euroclydon.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What 'tackling'—securities or resources you've relied upon—might God be asking you to release in times of crisis?
2. How does shared suffering create opportunities for Christian witness and leadership?

Interlinear Text

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|------------|-------|------------------|---------------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|--------------------|
| καὶ | τῇ | τρίτῃ | αὐτόχειρες | τὴν | σκευὴν | τοῦ | πλοίου |
| And | G3588 | the third | with our own hands | G3588 | the tackling | G3588 | of the ship |
| G2532 | | G5154 | G849 | | G4631 | | G4143 |

ἔρριψαμεν
day we cast out
G4496

Additional Cross-References

Job 2:4 (Parallel theme): And Satan answered the LORD, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life.