Are You At Wit’s End?
Psalm 107:23-32 (NKJV)

Please turn with me in your Bibles to tonight’s scripture text in Psalm 107:23-32.

Psalm 107:23-32 (NKJV)

23 Those who go down to the sea in ships,
    Who do business on great waters,

24 They see the works of the Lord,
    And His wonders in the deep.

25 For He commands and raises the stormy wind,
    Which lifts up the waves of the sea.

26 They mount up to the heavens,
    They go down again to the depths;
    Their soul melts because of trouble.

27 They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man,
    And are at their wits’ end.

28 Then they cry out to the Lord in their trouble,
    And He brings them out of their distresses.

29 He calms the storm,
    So that its waves are still.

30 Then they are glad because they are quiet;
    So He guides them to their desired haven.

31 Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness,
    And for His wonderful works to the children of men!

32 Let them exalt Him also in the assembly of the people,
    And praise Him in the company of the elders.
INTRODUCTION

It’s a place we have all been to. In fact chances are you and I have been there many times.

You can’t find this place on a map. It has no street address or zip code. You can’t get to this place by plane, train or automobile.

I’m talking about a place called “Wit’s End.” Ahhh, you have been there haven’t you?

**Wit’s End** is a place where you have tried everything you know to do........ a place where you have used up all your options........ a place where you have exhausted a great deal of your time, energy and money and very little if anything to show for it.

**Wit’s End** is a place where there are seemingly no answers to your questions or solutions to your problems. It’s a place of sleepless nights and restless days. **Wit’s End** is a place of despair, and discouragement, and defeat, and depression.

When you come to **“Wit’s End”** it seems as though there is no where else to turn and no one else to turn to, but to Almighty God in heaven.

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If you are at **Wit’s End** tonight I have some “good news” for you from the word of God. This 107th Psalm was written just for people like you and me who find ourselves at **Wit’s End.** It is a Psalm of hope that no matter how difficult our circumstance may be, **God is there to help us when we come to a place called “Wit’s End.”**
As we go back to our scripture text, I want to briefly **point out three truths** about this place called “**Wit’s End.**

First of all.........

I.  **Wit’s End Is A Place of SUFFERING (vs. 23-27)**

23 Those who go down to the sea in ships,  
Who do business on great waters,

24 They see the works of the Lord,  
And His wonders in the deep.

25 For He commands and raises the stormy wind,  
Which lifts up the waves of the sea.

26 They mount up to the heavens,  
They go down again to the depths;  
Their soul melts because of trouble.

27 They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man,  
And are at their wits’ end.

1.  In these verses the place called “**Wit’s End**” is on a ship’s deck in a storm tossed sea.

2.  These sailors are out their doing what they do every day to make a living. They are merchants transporting goods from port to port.

   Well they are sailing along smoothly when all the sudden a storm comes up out of nowhere. Giant waves carry the ship up to the heavens then drop it down to the depths. Powerful winds are tossing the ship from side to side.

   The sailors are staggering across the deck like drunk men trying to get their “**sea legs.**” They are grasping for anything they can get their hands on to keep from being tossed overboard. The ship’s sails are tattered and torn and wave after wave crashes into the side of the ship.

   They are completely at “**Wit’s End!**”
3. Isn’t that the way it is for us? We’re sailing along smoothly in life, just going about our daily business, when all the sudden we find ourselves in the midst of a terrible storm?

- Perhaps its getting some shocking “test results.”

- Or perhaps its having your daily routine altered to care for an aging parent or loved one.

- Or maybe its getting the “pink slip” at work informing you your job will be terminated because of economic cut-backs.

- Or perhaps your suddenly thrown into a situation of having to deal with the addictive behavior of a relative.

- Or maybe it’s the sudden, unexpected death of a mate or a parent that sends you reeling into the depths of grief.

- Or perhaps its getting your whole world turned upside down when your mate leaves you for someone else.

4. The truth is most of us do not grow in our faith in times of ease. It seems our FAITH grows best in times of SUFFERING.

   Have you ever looked into the face of a weather-beaten sailor? Their face and hands look like tough rawhide……their eyes look like hardened steel……their hair has the coarseness of burlap. Its obvious these sailors have weathered many a storm.

5. Likewise, you and I must weather some “life storms” to strengthen our FAITH and toughen our RESOLVE.

5. Yes, “Wit’s End” is a place of SUFFERING.
Secondly

II. Wit’s End Is A Place of SURRENDER  (v.28)

28 Then they cry out to the Lord in their trouble,  
   And He brings them out of their distresses.

1. Get the picture here.

   -These men are trapped in the wide open sea.

   -They are completely at the mercy of the elements.

   -They are unable to stop the storm.

   -Their ship of security is about to break apart.

   -There’s no rescue ship in the vicinity.

   -There’s no land in sight.

   -Even if they have lifeboats, they will be of no use to them in a storm this powerful.

   -And they are totally powerless to save themselves.

The sailors are at “WIT’S END.”

2. There is only one thing they can do and that is to fall down on their knees and **cry out to the LORD to save them from their trouble.**

3. Isn’t it ironic that when we Christians find ourselves drowning in a sea of troubles, one of the last things we do is the first thing we should have done, and that is prayed about it.

   Sadly, many of us think we must exhaust all our human resources and solutions first, and if those things fail, the ONLY THING left to do is PRAY ABOUT IT. Brothers and sisters, when you and I are in TROUBLE, prayer isn’t just the ONLY thing to do, it is THE BEST THING TO DO.
4. You see, we don’t just wind up at “Wit’s End” for no reason. God has a divine purpose in allowing you and me to come to a place called “Wit’s End.”

-Perhaps He is trying to humble us and break us of our proud attitude that we can handle anything life throws at us.

-Maybe He is trying to break us of our independence and our self-sufficiency.

-Maybe He is trying to drive us back to that Bible we have been neglecting to read.

-Perhaps He is trying to drive us to our knees in prayer, something we haven’t done in a long, long time.

-Maybe He is trying to show us that we have been putting too much trouble in people and not enough trust in Him.

-Perhaps He is trying to “shake us” out of our hypocritical Christianity that is “all talk and no walk.”

-Maybe He is trying to get us to “let go” of some secret sin we have been clinging to for many years.

5. When you and I find ourselves at “Wits End” that is when our souls need to “cry out” to God!

It is a time when we need to do some deep soul-searching!

-“Father, why have You brought me to this place called WITS END?”

-“Father, what are You trying to teach me about myself?”

-“Father, what is it You are wanting me to change?” “What is it You are wanting me to give up? “What have I been neglecting to do that You would have me to do?”
Wits End is a place of SUFFERING.

Wits End is a place of SURRENDER.

And thirdly………..

III. Wits End Is A Place of SALVATION (vs. 28-32)

28 Then they cry out to the Lord in their trouble,
   And He brings them out of their distresses.

29 He calms the storm,
   So that its waves are still.

30 Then they are glad because they are quiet;
   So He guides them to their desired haven.

31 Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness,
   And for His wonderful works to the children of men!

32 Let them exalt Him also in the assembly of the people,
   And praise Him in the company of the elders.

1. Many commentators believe the Psalmist had Jonah in mind
   when he wrote these verses. It certainly sounds like what
   Jonah went through doesn’t it?

2. In these verses we see four blessings God poured out
   on these sailors once they cried out to Him for help. And it is
   important to note the sequence of these blessings.

   (A) First, God brought them out of their DISTRESSES. (v.28b)

       All the weight and pressure of everything they had
       worried about……… and fretted over…..and everything
       they were fearful of, lifted the moment they cried out
       to God.

   (B) Second, God CALMED the STORM. (v.29)

       Only God has the power to say to the storm, “PEACE
       be still.” Only God has the power to bring ORDER
       out of CHAOS. Only God has the power to restore
       HOPE in a HOPELESS situation.
There is a very important truth for you and me to learn here, so listen carefully. Did you notice the sequence of these first two blessings?

God brought the sailors out of their distresses before He calmed the storm. Many of us make the mistake of believing we cannot have peace until God takes “the storm” out of our life.

The truth is, GOD can and will give you and me PEACE in the midst of the storm when we pray that prayer of complete surrender, “Not my will, but Your will be done!”

**GOD BROUGHT THEM OUT OF THEIR DISTRESSES. GOD CALMED THE STORM.**

(C) The third blessing was that God **RESTORED** their **GLADNESS.** (v. 30a)

Notice in v. 30 the Psalmist says, “Then they are glad because they are quiet.”

A few moments earlier they were probably shouting words of sheer desperation, “We’re all going to die!” “We’re going to drown!” “The ship can’t take much more of this!”

Did you notice GOD restored their gladness after they stopped all the shouting?

When we are at “Wit’s End” we all say a lot of things in desperation: “There is no hope!” “I can’t take another day of this!” “If just one more thing happens!” “I give up!”

Saying these kinds of things keeps us torn up inside. They only add to our sense of desperation!

When you and I find ourselves at “Wits End” one of the most helpful things we can do is to be **QUIET**......to stop getting ourselves all worked up......and simply BE QUIET IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD!
GOD BROUGHT THEM OUT OF THEIR DISTRESSES.
GOD CALMED THE STORM.
GOD RESTORED THEIR GLADNESS.

(D) And the fourth blessing was God brought them to
SAFE HARBOUR (v. 30 b )

One moment the sailors are aboard a sinking ship in the middle of a stormy sea, the next moment they are arriving safely at the harbor.

Illustration: Last year Linda and I went white-water rafting on the French Broad river north of Asheville. Before we left on our rafting trip we went into a little store that sold all kinds of Tee-Shirts and white-water rafting gear.

As I looked through the tee-shirt racks there was one tee-shirt that especially grabbed my attention. On the back of the tee-shirt was a picture of a group of rafters navigating a very difficult rapid. And under the picture were these words: "God doesn’t promise smooth-sailing, but He does promise a safe landing.”

v. 30 “Then they are glad because they are quiet; so He guides them to their desired haven.”
CONCLUSION

If you are at WITS END this evening or know someone who is, my prayer is that God has used this message to minister to your spirit.

The lesson we learn from this 107TH PSALM is that no matter how difficult our circumstances may be there is always HOPE as long as we put our complete FAITH and TRUST in GOD!

If you are at WITS END realize God has brought you to this place for a reason. What is He trying to teach you? What does He want you to learn? You will find out if you don’t give up!

Wits End Corner

Are you standing at “Wits End Corner” Christian, with troubled brow’
Are you thinking of what is before you, And all you are bearing now’
Does all the world seem against you, And you in the battle alone’
Remember at Wits End Corner Is where God’s power is shown.

Are you standing at “Wits End Corner” Blinded with wearying pain
Feeling you cannot endure it, You cannot bear the strain.
Bruised through the constant suffering Dizzy and dazed, and numb
Remember at Wits End Corner, Is where Jesus loves to come.

Are you standing at “Wits End Corner” Your work before you spread.
Or lying begun, unfinished And pressing on heart and head.
Longing for strength to do it. Stretching out trembling hands
Remember at “Wits End Corner” The burden bearer stand.

Are you standing at “Wits End Corner” Yearning for those you love,
Longing and praying and watching, Pleading their cause above,
Trying to lead them to Jesus Wondering if you’ve been true’
He whispers at “Wits End Corner” “I’ll win them as I won you.”

Are you standing at “Wits End Corner” Then you’re just in the very spot.
To learn the wondrous resources Of Him who faileth not!
No doubt to a brighter pathway Your footsteps will soon be moved
But only at Wits End Corner Is the God who is able, “proved.”

Antoinette Wilson