

## NAVIGATING TOWARD OUR DESTINY - Part II

### Entrusted to our Care

Text: Philippians 4:1

**Key Word:** Entrusted

**Key Thought:** We Are All Entrusted with Precious Lives

I'm sure there's a number of you attending today who have had the pleasure of enjoying a cruise ship. The word "pampering" is definitely not exaggerating the way most people feel the moment they board the ship. The atrium is filled with floral arrangements and elegant decor. Talented musicians can be heard adding to the warm ambience. The staff and officers make you feel like family.

Unfortunately, this was not what the 3229 passengers and 1023 crew of Costa Concordia witnessed as they begin their Mediterranean voyage. At 21:45 on January 13, 2012 in calm seas and an overcast sky, a horrible sound of a gnashing gash alerted the crew that something was terribly wrong. The 50 metres (150 feet) gash had torn open the port side (left side facing forward) of the ship while navigating through the Tyrrhenian Sea on the East Coast of Isola del Giglio (Giglio Island) off the coast of Tuscany. The name in Italian means "*Lily*." It actually derives its name from the Latin transliteration of the Greek word meaning "*little goat*."

So who stood out in this story as the one who bucked his horns against the sophisticated navigational system. The name that will go down in history was **Captain Francesco Schettino**. After attending the nautical Institute named Nino Bixio, he began working for a ferry company and in 2002 began with Costa Cruises. In 2010, as the captain of the Costa Atlantica he entered a German port at too high a speed and collided with another Costa ship. In 2014 he taught a panic management course at Rome University. I'm sure he spoke out of experience.

What caused the "**accident?**" Nothing did, because it wasn't an accident. It was caused because the captain purposefully navigated the ship off course. We now know that the married commander had his lover, Dominica Cemortan (a classically trained dancer), on board and after dining he invited her to the bridge where he took command of the vessel.

Just as the ship was making its way northwest along the Italian coastline, Schettino called for the vessel to be steered close to Giglio as a way to "**salute**" the island. The captain declared that he didn't do it to impress his girlfriend, instead he did it to honour the ship's head waiter who was a native of the island and to give the passengers an incredible view of the beautiful island. I've been told that the devil is in the details. It sure relates to this disastrous story.

The captain knew that the ship was taking on water after the ship had hit an underground rock formation and that his engines were failing. He ordered his crew to tell the passengers that everything was in order in the ship and they had simply suffered an electrical outage. He knew the ship was now drifting toward shore. We don't calm people down for long when sudden destruction is emerging fast. It reminds me of the warnings found in scripture.

*“They dress the wound of my people as though it were not serious. ‘Peace, peace,’ they say, when there is no peace.”*

*Jeremiah 6:14*

*“While people are saying, ‘Peace and security,’ destruction will come upon them suddenly, like labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.”*

*I Thessalonians 5:3*

“Inside, panic reigned. Claudia Poliani, a hairdresser from Rome who survived the disaster, would later describe the chaos in court testimony.

*‘From the happiness and wonder of being on a cruise, we passengers became panic stricken and fell over. It was dark and no one helped us ... no one told us what to do. We found life jackets ourselves,’ she said.*

Another survivor, Rosanna Abbinante, told the court she feared that she would *‘die like a rat’.*”

*“The Guardian”  
Feb 11, 2015*

The captain ignored the maritime law that required all passengers to be evacuated within 30 minutes of an evacuation order. It took more than six hours and even at that time not all passengers were evacuated. Thirty-two of those precious lives that were entrusted into his care perished. His foolish act caused not just loss of life, but also terror that will haunt the survivors for years to come.

He abandoned his post and left the entire evacuation to his second-in-command. It was just 20 minutes later that he abandoned his ship with more than 300 passengers still waiting to be rescued. To date this salvage was the most expensive at \$1.2 billion. That is not including legal fees. As of January 2017 there was nothing left of the ship except its horrible memory.

As we are **Navigating Toward Our Destiny** we need to be reminded that we all have precious souls **Entrusted to Our Care**.

**I. THEY NEED OUR SHARING**  
**II. THEY NEED OUR CARING**  
**III. THEY NEED OUR PAIRING**

**I. THEY NEED OUR SHARING**

According to SOLAS (Safety of Life at Sea) every cruise ship has to go through an emergency drill prior to leaving port. Everyone is required to assemble at their **muster station** identified on the personal guest card. It is during that time that they are clearly instructed on what to do in case of emergency and how to properly wear their life jacket.

If the emergency alarm is sounded, everyone is told that they must immediately go to their rooms (as long as it is safe) and get their life jackets if the horn is sounded during their cruise. They will then, be directed in an orderly fashion into a lifeboat and given a life jacket if they weren't able to get one from their cabin. Each jacket has a whistle and emits a light so rescuers can help find them.

Let me remind you that our church also has an emergency plan set in order. Every room contains an evacuation plan map with a primary and alternative exit. We also have a lock-down plan in case anyone tries to bring harm while we are meeting in the building. These are all basic levels of protection that we need to be reminded of each year.

As Christians, we also were given the responsibility to share the “eternal safety plan” that is detailed in our Bibles as we **Navigate Toward our Destiny**. The Bible clearly tells us who our Captain is (God). He will guide us, provide for us, protect us, respect us. There is no doubt that He loves us and has provided a place for us to spend eternity with Him. The apostle Paul was inspired to tell the church . . .

*“ and how can they hear without someone preaching to them?  
15. And how can they preach unless they are sent?  
As it is written, ‘ how beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’”*

*Romans 10:14,15*

*“ I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ.”*

*Romans 15:19*

## I. THEY NEED OUR SHARING (Contd.)

*“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20. and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

*Matthew 28:19, 20*

Let me remind you before I go to my second point that Captain Francesco Schettino had a clear navigational plan and a sophisticated system but he chose to go off course perhaps to impress someone. Having the Bible and even understanding the Bible is not enough to keep people from having the ship wrecked faith.

*“holding on to faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and so have suffered shipwreck with regard to the faith.”*

*I Timothy 1:9*

So what is another important point to keep in mind to avoid getting off the main course that God has set before us?

## II. THEY NEED OUR CARING

These precious souls belong to God and He has entrusted them to us to care for them. So am I suggesting that we can share with people without really caring?

We need to ask ourselves why do we care for other people? Is there actually something that we can gain from it. The answer is yes. There have been plenty of studies that been done on codependency. One definition of this word is **“excessive emotional or psychological reliance on a partner, typically a partner who requires support due to an illness or addiction.”** It’s not unusual to gain something personally from helping others. That is why it is a wise thing to question our motives.

*“More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ,*

*Philippians 3:8 NASV*

## II. THEY NEED OUR CARING (Contd.)

The apostle Paul realized he had helped a lot of people. He had gained plenty and he had lost much in doing so. The extreme difference of describing it as a “**surpassing value**” and “**rubbish**” is quite noticeable. He became mature enough to keep his relationship with God above all things. The reason he headed in that direction was to get closer to God. **It is like a triangle.** If God is at the top and we are on the lower corners then the closer we get to God the closer we get to each other. This illustration is often used to describe how a husband and wife can become closer in their relationship with each other.

### God Will Take Care of You

Verse 4. No matter what may be the test,  
God will take care of you  
Lean, weary one, upon His breast  
God will take care of you.

*Refrain*  
*God will take care of you*  
*Through every day, over all the way*  
*He will take care of you,*  
*God will take care of you.*

Words: Civilla D. Martin, 1904  
first appeared in Songs of Redemption and Praise  
by John A. Davis, 1905

*"Can a woman forget her nursing child and have no  
compassion on the son of her womb? Even these  
may forget, but I will not forget you."*

*Isaiah 49:15*

God cares for you and we should care for each other with the same motivation. Remember this as you are entrusted to care for the precious souls in your scope of ministry. **The course of our life is chartered for a reason.** Don't abandon the ship even if you've made a foolish decision. Stick with it. Face up to it. Rescue as many lives as you can because only God knows if your vessel will capsize. **Don't leave in a lifeboat - be a lighthouse!**

### III. THEY NEED OUR PAIRING

I would think most people would agree with me when I say that it's not easy to go through life alone. God was the one who instituted marriage between a man and woman.

*“The LORD God said. It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”*

*Genesis 2:18*

God also offers the comfort that we need if our spouse should pass away or leave the relationship. Scripture shows me that God has a special place in his heart for widows and orphans.

When Jesus sent forth His disciples to share the gospel He sent them in pairs.

*“Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out **two by two** . . .”*

*Mark 6:7*

We also read about Paul and Barnabas, then Paul and Silas and also Barnabas and Timothy as well as James and John.

*“Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.”*

*Ecclesiastes 4:12*

I have never found the best type of leadership in God's church to be autocratic. I believe in accountability. I choose my accountability partners carefully. Some I am accountable to because I am in ministry together. Others I would trust with my life and I know that they will speak truth into me not to **improve the ministry** I'm in, but to **improve me**. My greatest accountability partner is my wife of 45 years and that is vice versa. My other one was my best friend, Harold Snow who passed away earlier this year.

I have been blessed with many great people in this church as well as in the Fellowship of Christian Assemblies over the years. No one is meant to be an island to themselves. Even large ships have navigational systems to keep them from getting too close to islands. Your “cargo” is precious. Beloved let's not get off course as we Navigate Toward Our Destiny.

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Date: May 24/20

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: Lead me to the Cross

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**Entrusted to our Care**

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**INTRODUCTION:** *Jeremiah 6:14; I Thessalonians 5:3*

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**I. THEY NEED OUR SHARING** - *Romans 10:14,15; Romans 15:19; Matthew 28:19, 20; I Timothy 1:9*

**II. THEY NEED OUR CARING** - *Philippians 3:8 NASV; Isaiah 49:15*

**III. THEY NEED OUR PAIRING** - *Genesis 2:18; Mark 6:7; Ecclesiastes 4:12*