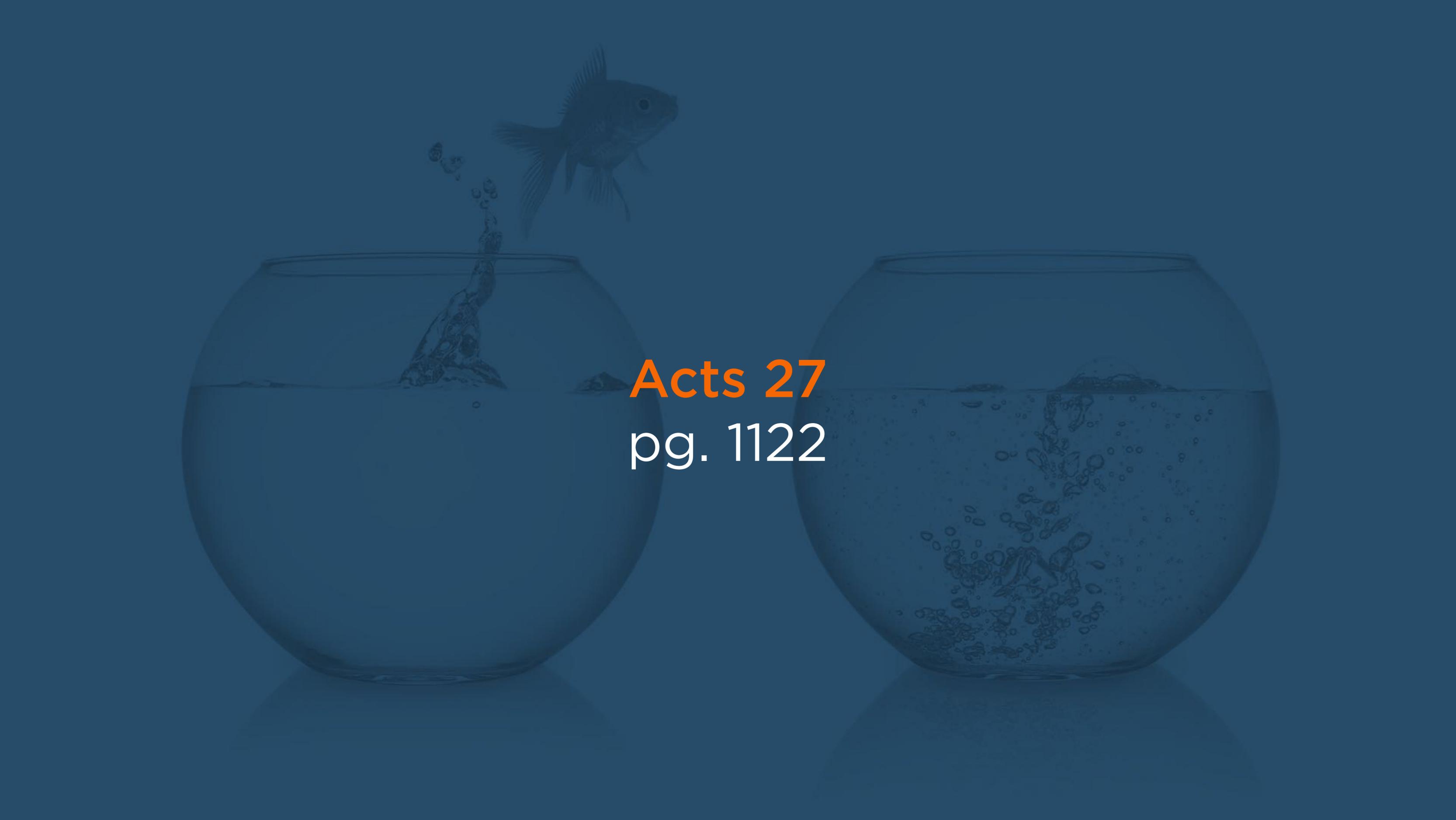


The
Crisis
and the
Calm

STEVE NORMAN

The background features two goldfish bowls on a dark blue surface. The left bowl shows a splash of water with a fish jumping out. The right bowl is filled with numerous bubbles. A single fish is visible above the left bowl. The text 'Acts 27' is in orange and 'pg. 1122' is in white, centered between the bowls.

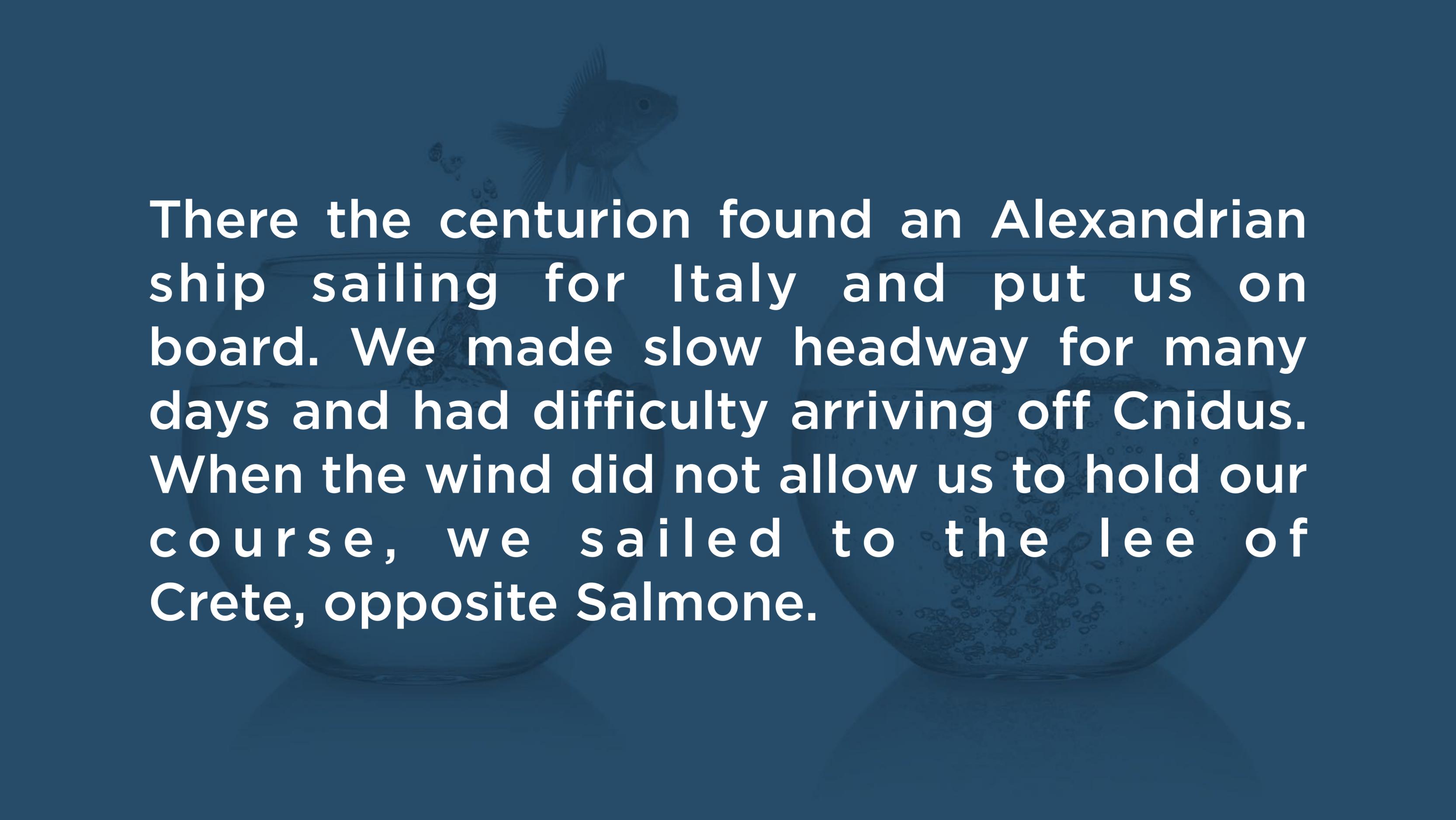
Acts 27
pg. 1122

When it was decided that we would sail for Italy, Paul and some other prisoners were handed over to a centurion named Julius, who belonged to the Imperial Regiment. We boarded a ship from Adramyttium about to sail for ports along the coast of the province of Asia, and we put out to sea. Aristarchus, a Macedonian from Thessalonica, was with us.

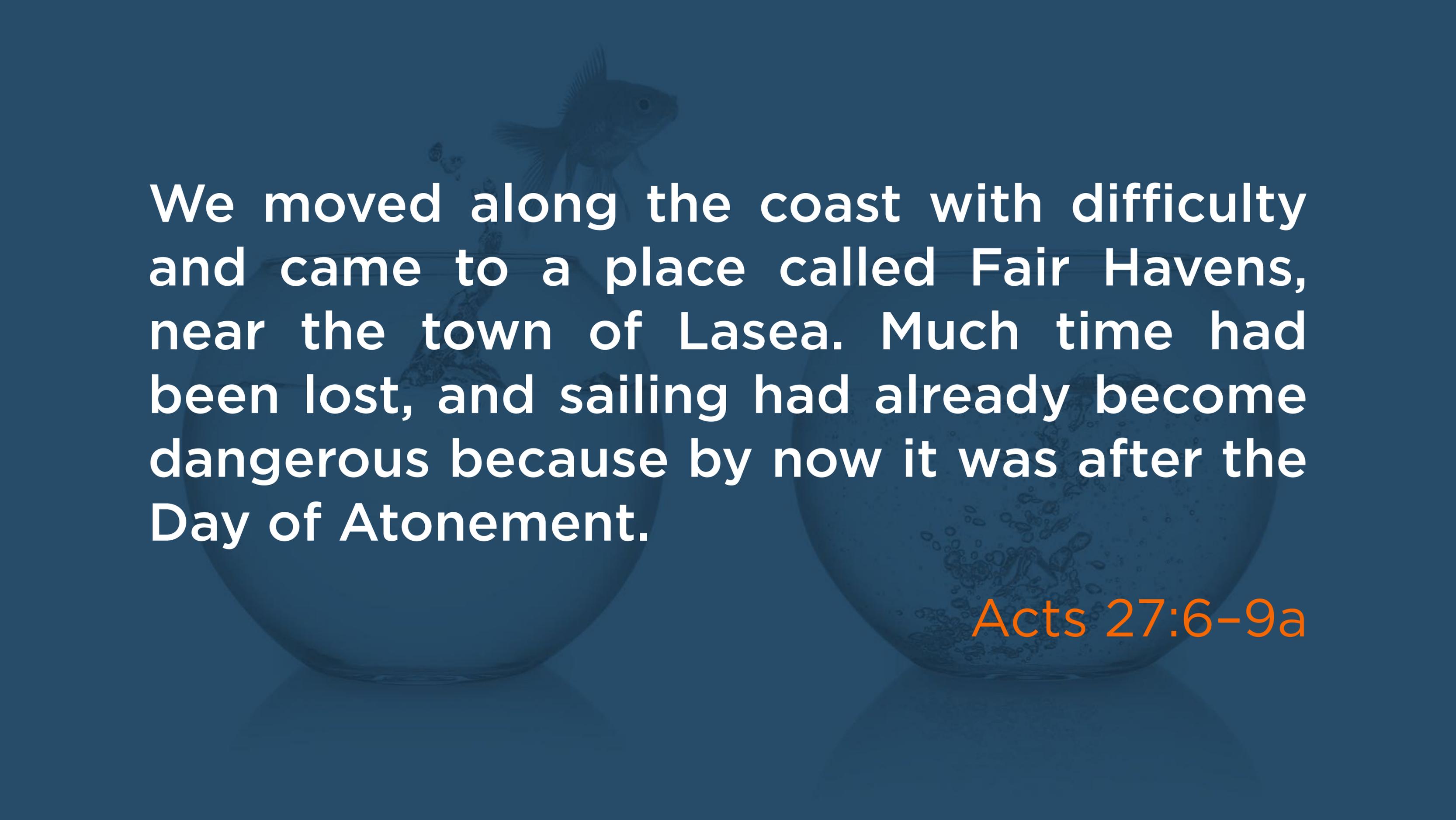
Acts 27:1-2

The next day we landed at Sidon; and Julius, in kindness to Paul, allowed him to go to his friends so they might provide for his needs. From there we put out to sea again and passed to the lee of Cyprus because the winds were against us. When we had sailed across the open sea off the coast of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we landed at Myra in Lycia.

Acts 27:3-5

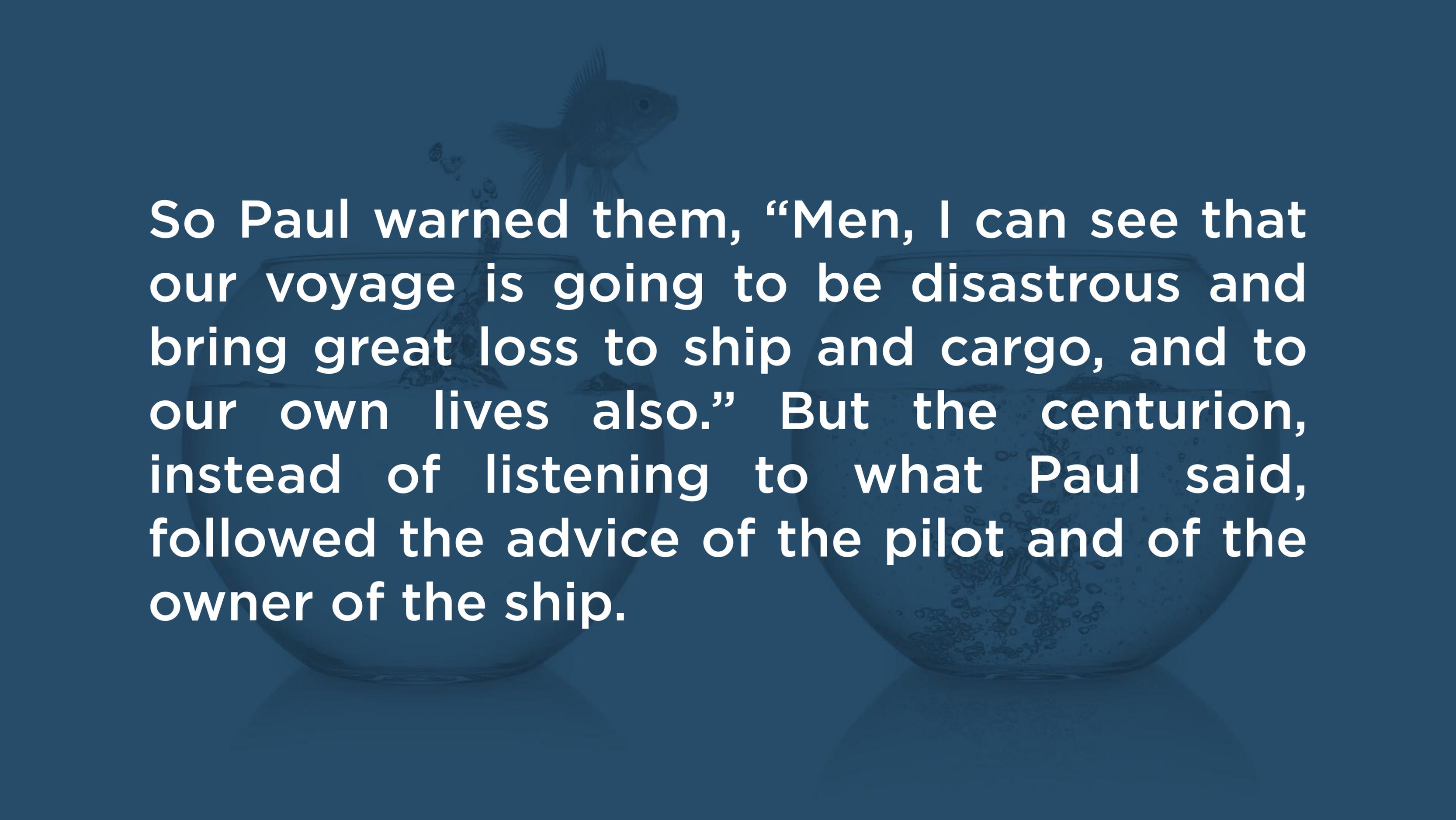
The background is a dark blue gradient with a faint, semi-transparent image of an aquarium. A fish is visible in the upper left, and bubbles are rising from the bottom. The text is overlaid on this background.

There the centurion found an Alexandrian ship sailing for Italy and put us on board. We made slow headway for many days and had difficulty arriving off Cnidus. When the wind did not allow us to hold our course, we sailed to the lee of Crete, opposite Salmone.

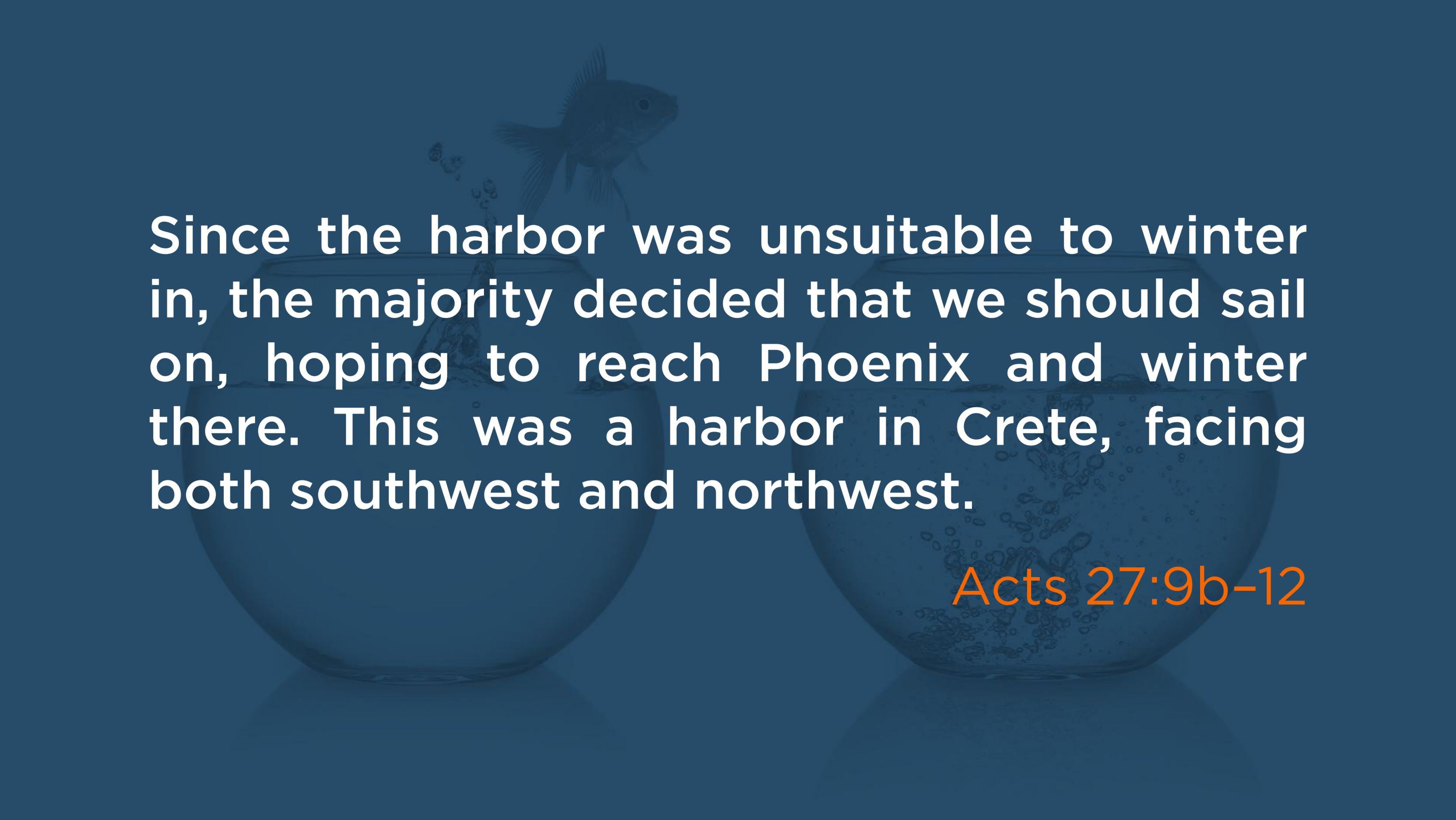
The background of the slide is a dark blue, semi-transparent image of an aquarium. It features several fish of different species swimming in the water, along with numerous small bubbles rising from the bottom. The overall aesthetic is calm and aquatic.

We moved along the coast with difficulty and came to a place called Fair Havens, near the town of Lasea. Much time had been lost, and sailing had already become dangerous because by now it was after the Day of Atonement.

Acts 27:6-9a

The background of the slide features two goldfish bowls. The bowl on the left contains a single goldfish swimming near the surface. The bowl on the right is filled with numerous small bubbles. The entire scene is set against a dark blue background.

So Paul warned them, “Men, I can see that our voyage is going to be disastrous and bring great loss to ship and cargo, and to our own lives also.” But the centurion, instead of listening to what Paul said, followed the advice of the pilot and of the owner of the ship.

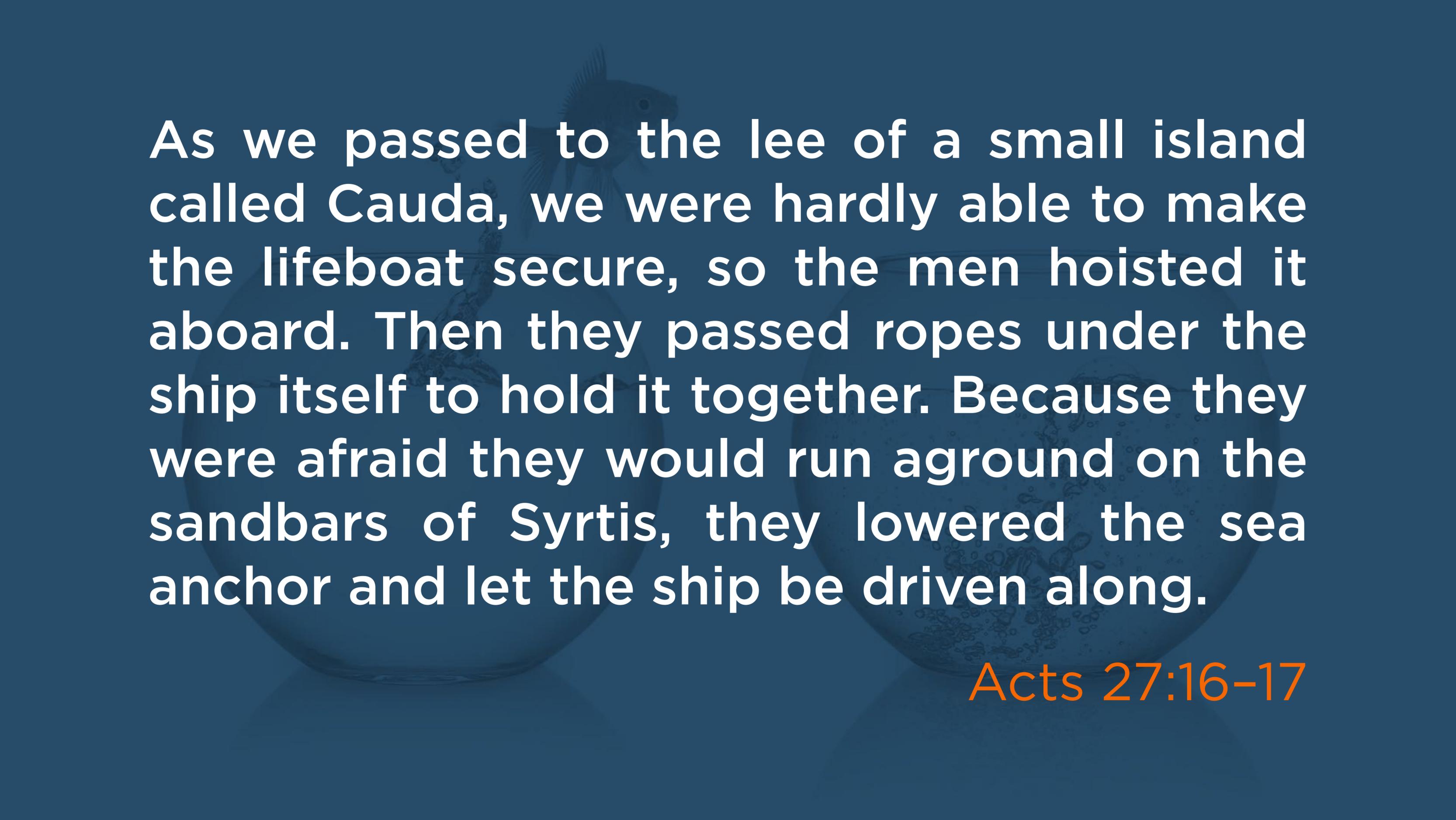
The background features two goldfish bowls. The bowl on the left contains a single goldfish swimming upwards. The bowl on the right is filled with numerous small bubbles. The entire scene is set against a dark blue background.

Since the harbor was unsuitable to winter in, the majority decided that we should sail on, hoping to reach Phoenix and winter there. This was a harbor in Crete, facing both southwest and northwest.

Acts 27:9b-12

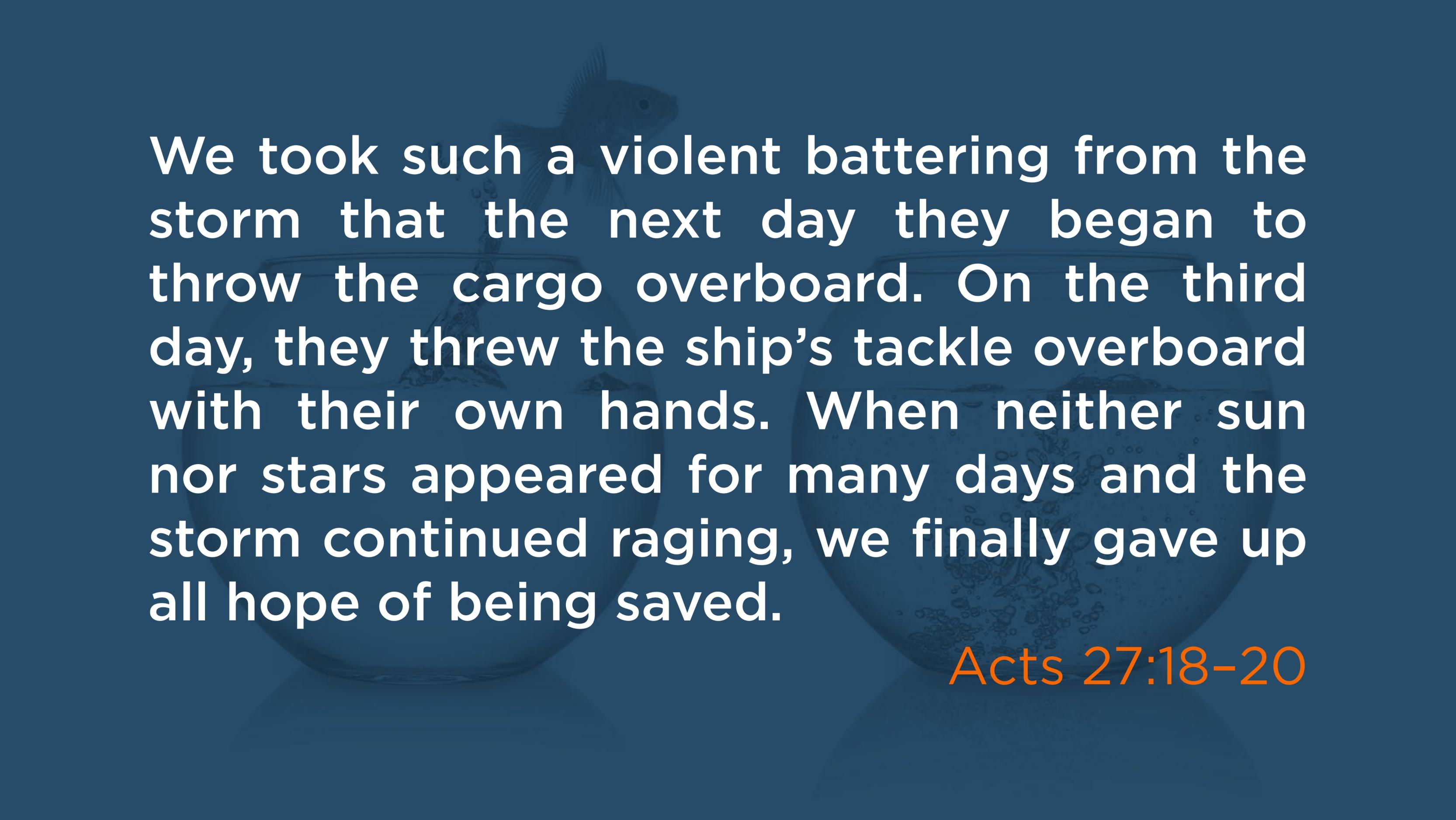
When a gentle south wind began to blow, they saw their opportunity; so they weighed anchor and sailed along the shore of Crete. Before very long, a wind of hurricane force, called the Northeaster, swept down from the island. The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along.

Acts 27:13-15

A dark blue background featuring a faint, semi-transparent image of a globe. Overlaid on the globe is a silhouette of a fish, possibly a shark or a large predatory fish, swimming towards the right. The text is centered and written in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

As we passed to the lee of a small island called Cauda, we were hardly able to make the lifeboat secure, so the men hoisted it aboard. Then they passed ropes under the ship itself to hold it together. Because they were afraid they would run aground on the sandbars of Syrtis, they lowered the sea anchor and let the ship be driven along.

Acts 27:16-17



We took such a violent battering from the storm that the next day they began to throw the cargo overboard. On the third day, they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands. When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved.

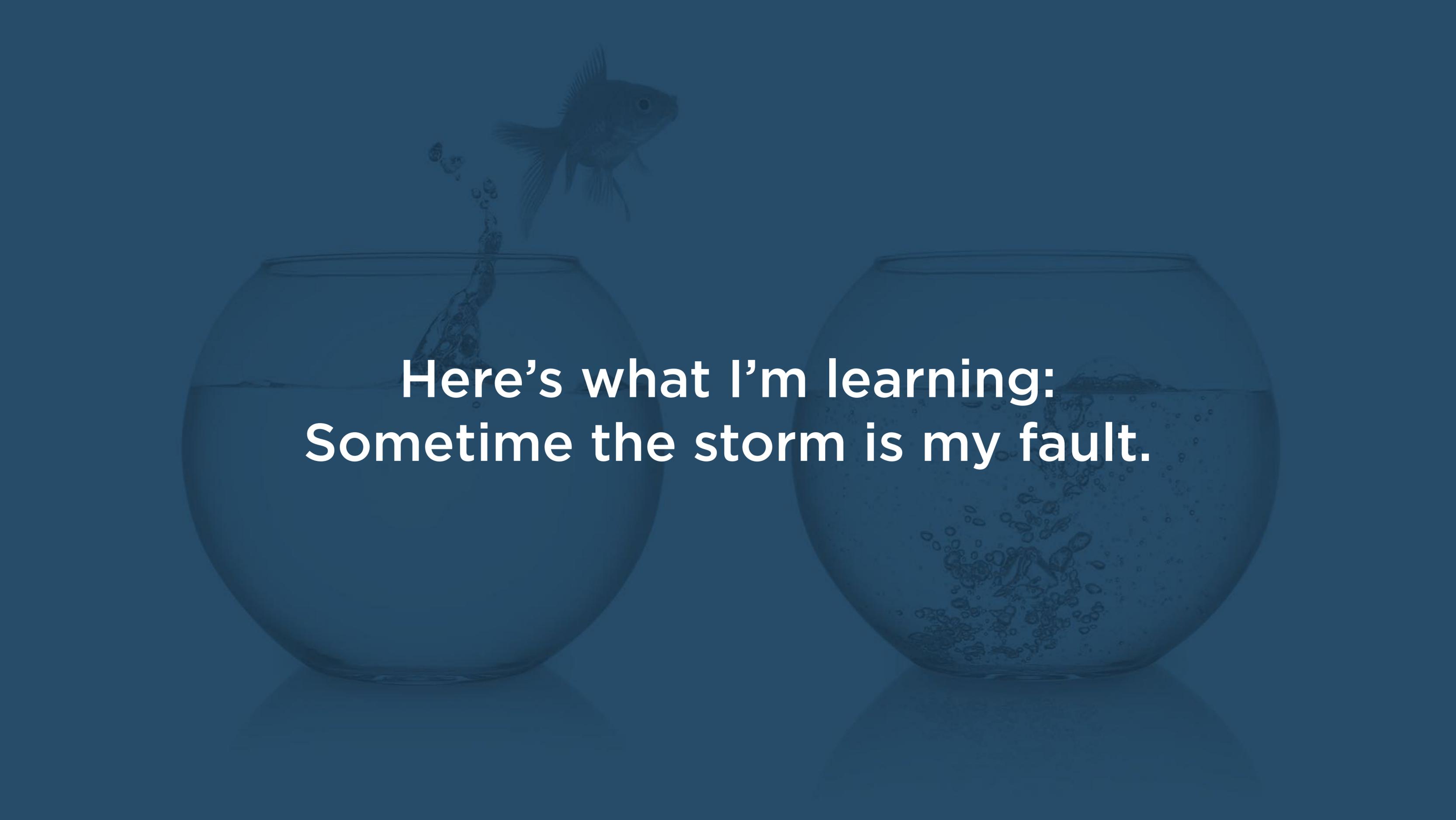
Acts 27:18-20

After they had gone a long time without food, Paul stood up before them and said: “Men, you should have taken my advice not to sail from Crete; then you would have spared yourselves this damage and loss. But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed.

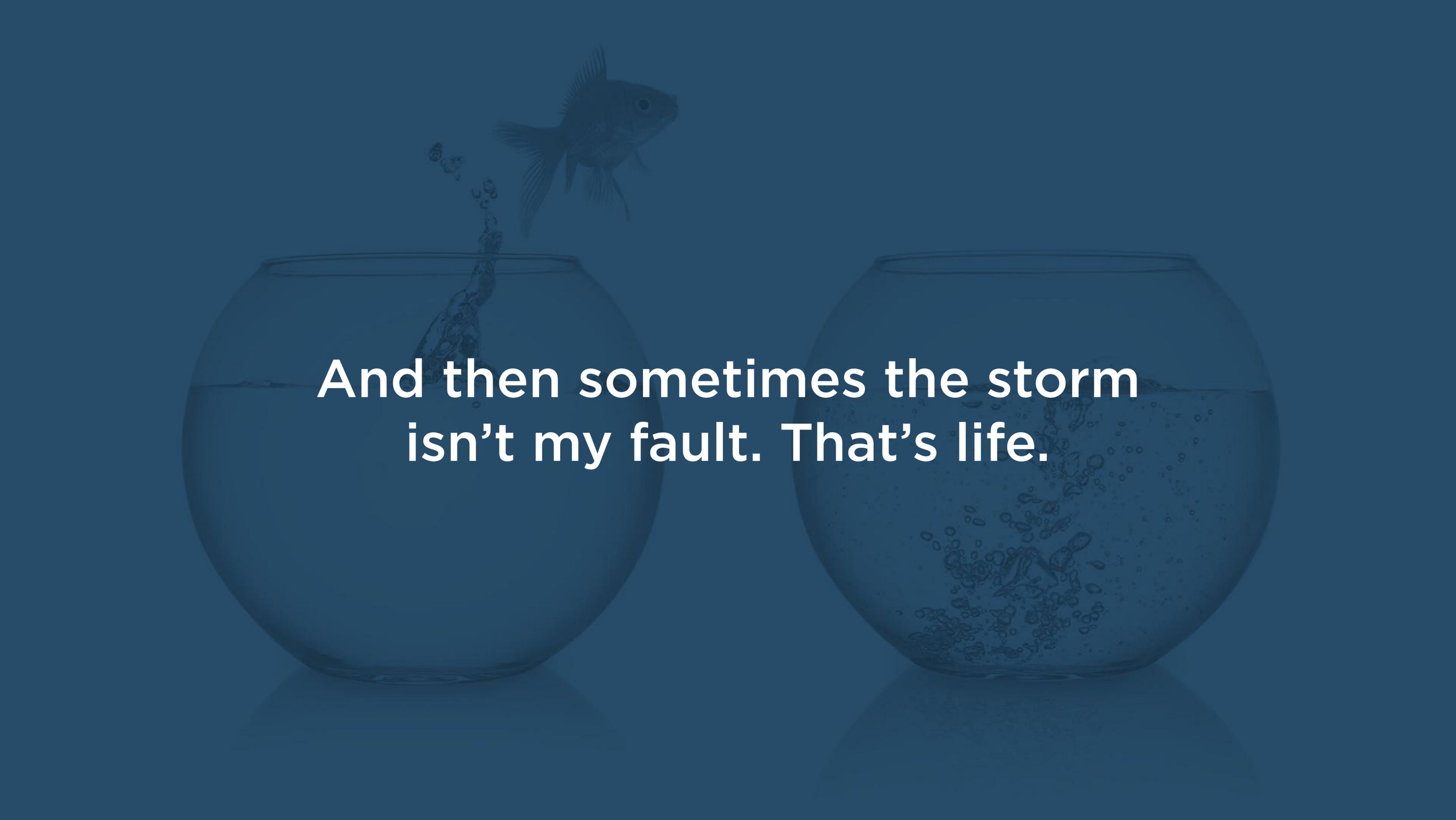
Acts 27:21-22

The image features a dark blue background with two goldfish bowls. The bowl on the left has a fish jumping out of the water, creating a splash and a trail of bubbles. The bowl on the right is filled with water and contains many small bubbles. The text "God speak to us when we're scared in the storm." is centered in white, bold, sans-serif font.

**God speak to us when we're
scared in the storm.**



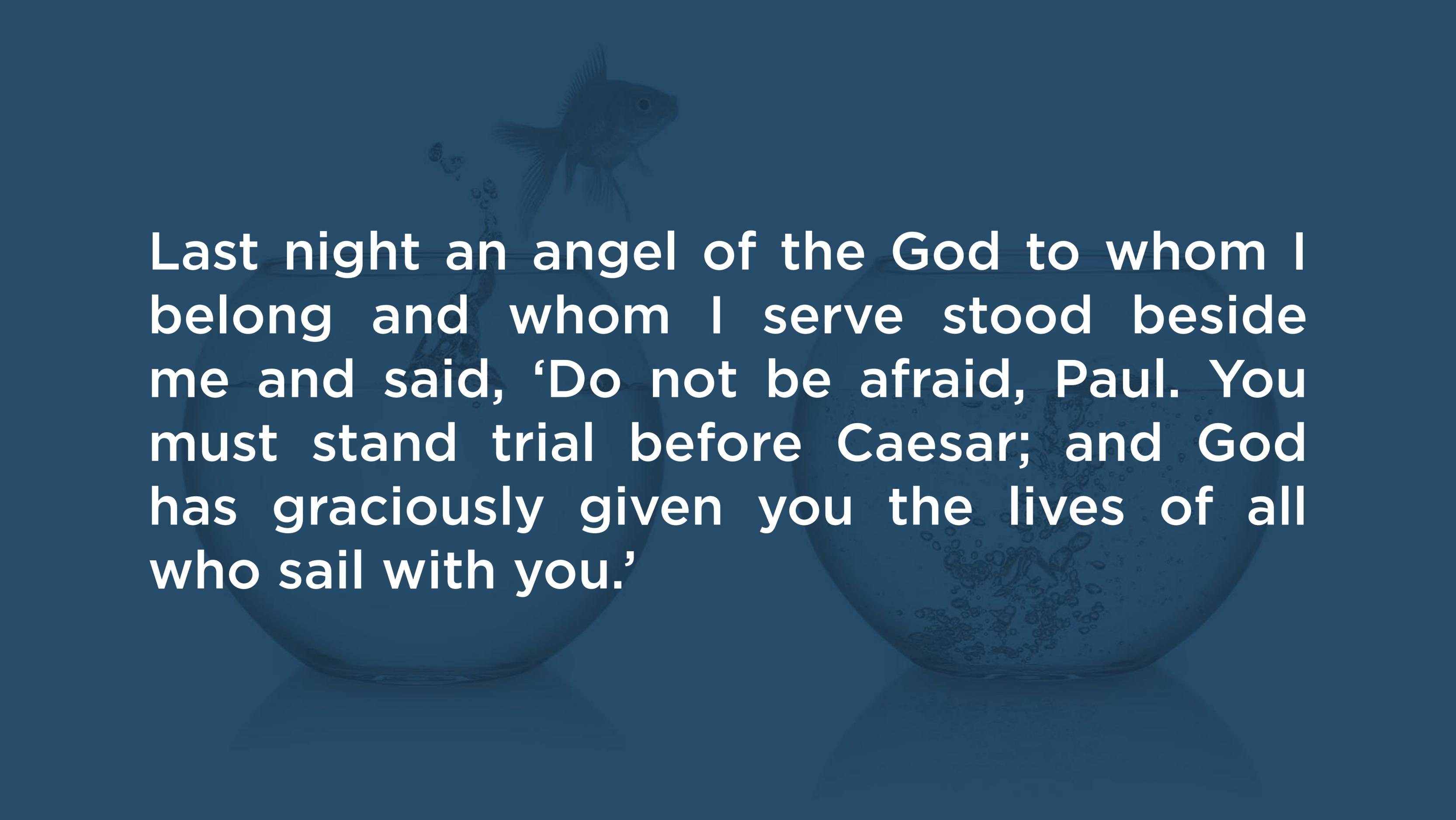
**Here's what I'm learning:
Sometime the storm is my fault.**



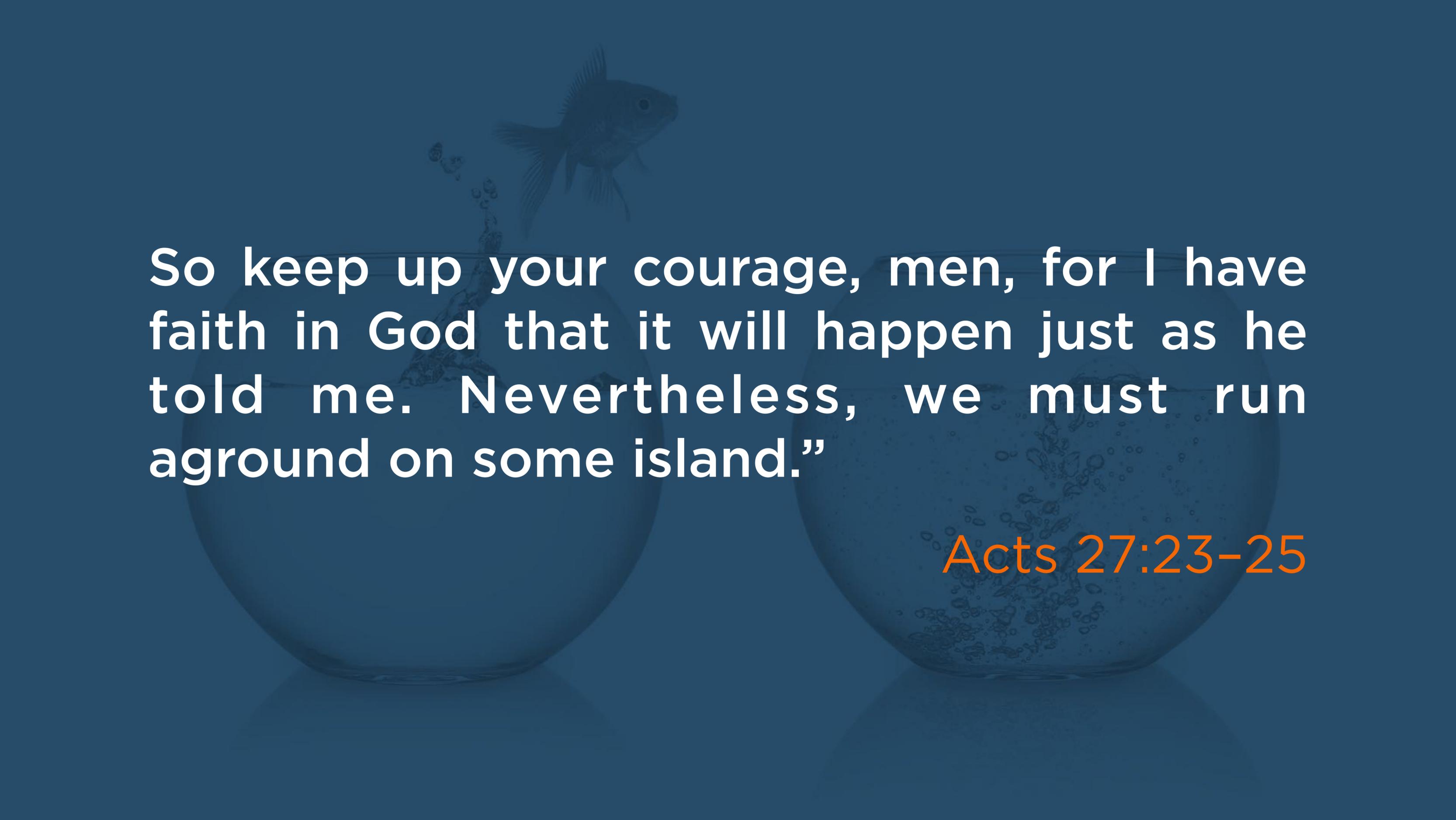
**And then sometimes the storm
isn't my fault. That's life.**



Bury
the
Blame

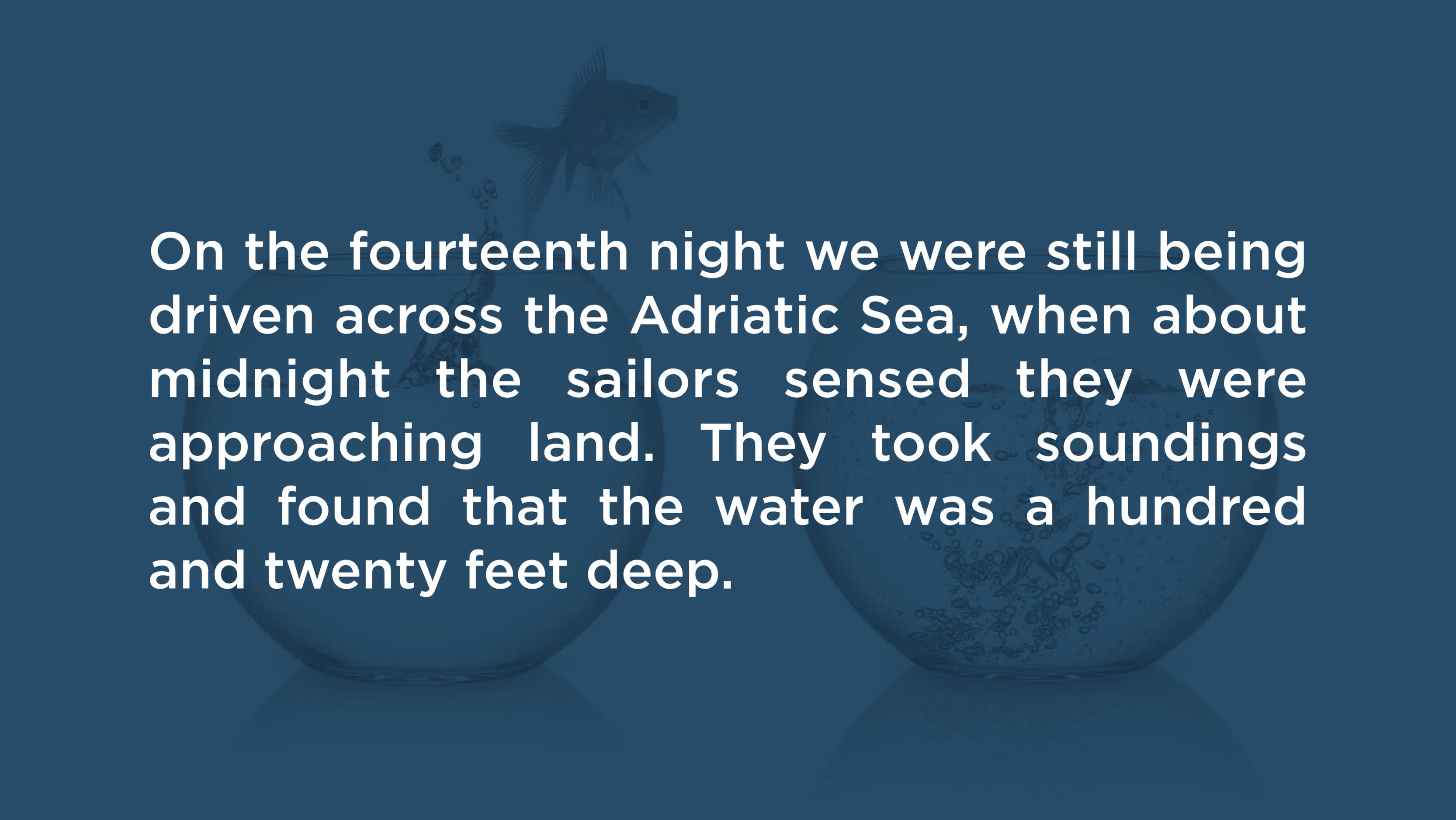


Last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.'

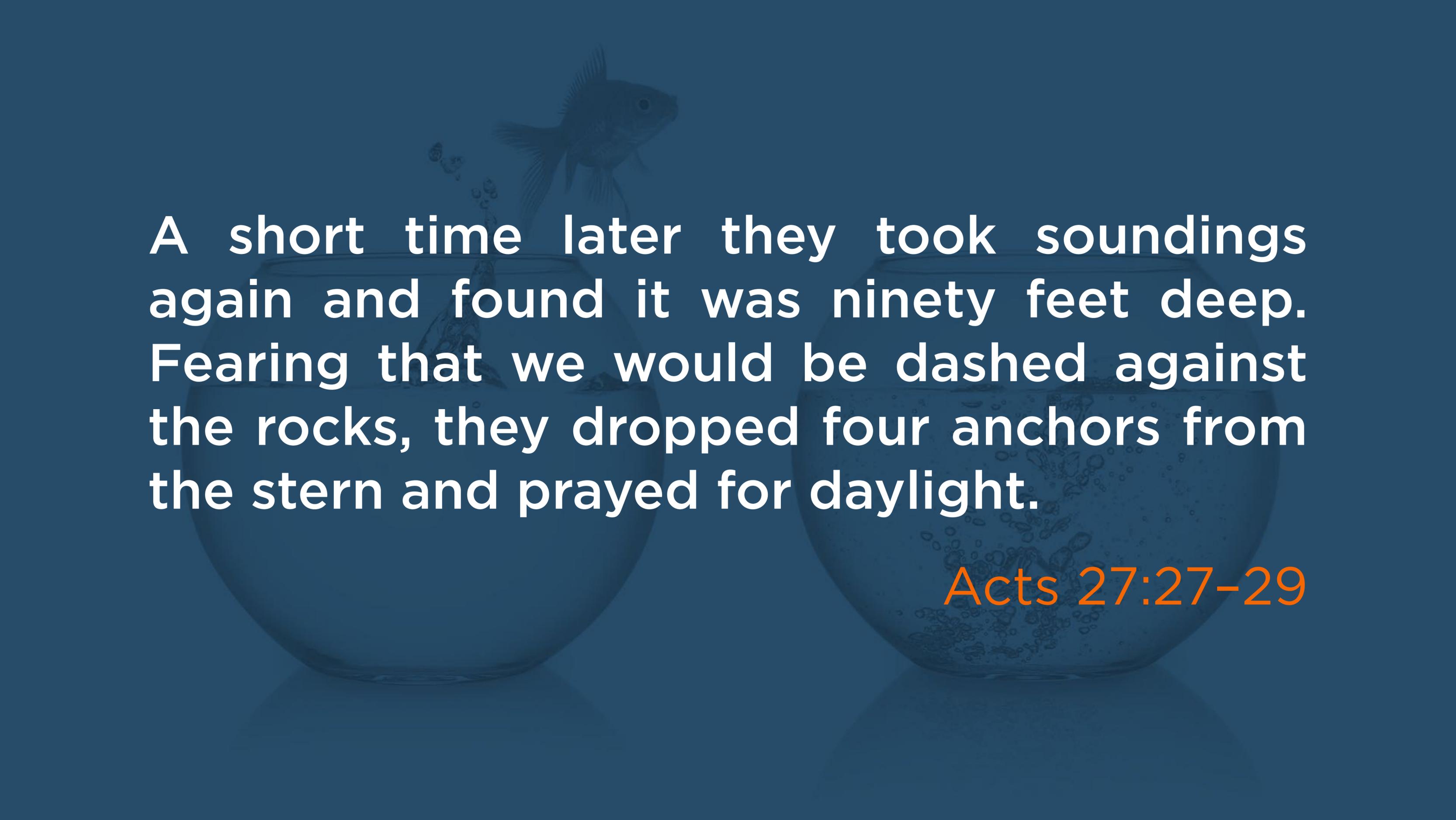


So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island.”

Acts 27:23-25

A dark blue background with a faint, stylized illustration of a fish and bubbles. The fish is positioned in the upper left quadrant, and bubbles are scattered throughout the scene, particularly around the text area.

On the fourteenth night we were still being driven across the Adriatic Sea, when about midnight the sailors sensed they were approaching land. They took soundings and found that the water was a hundred and twenty feet deep.

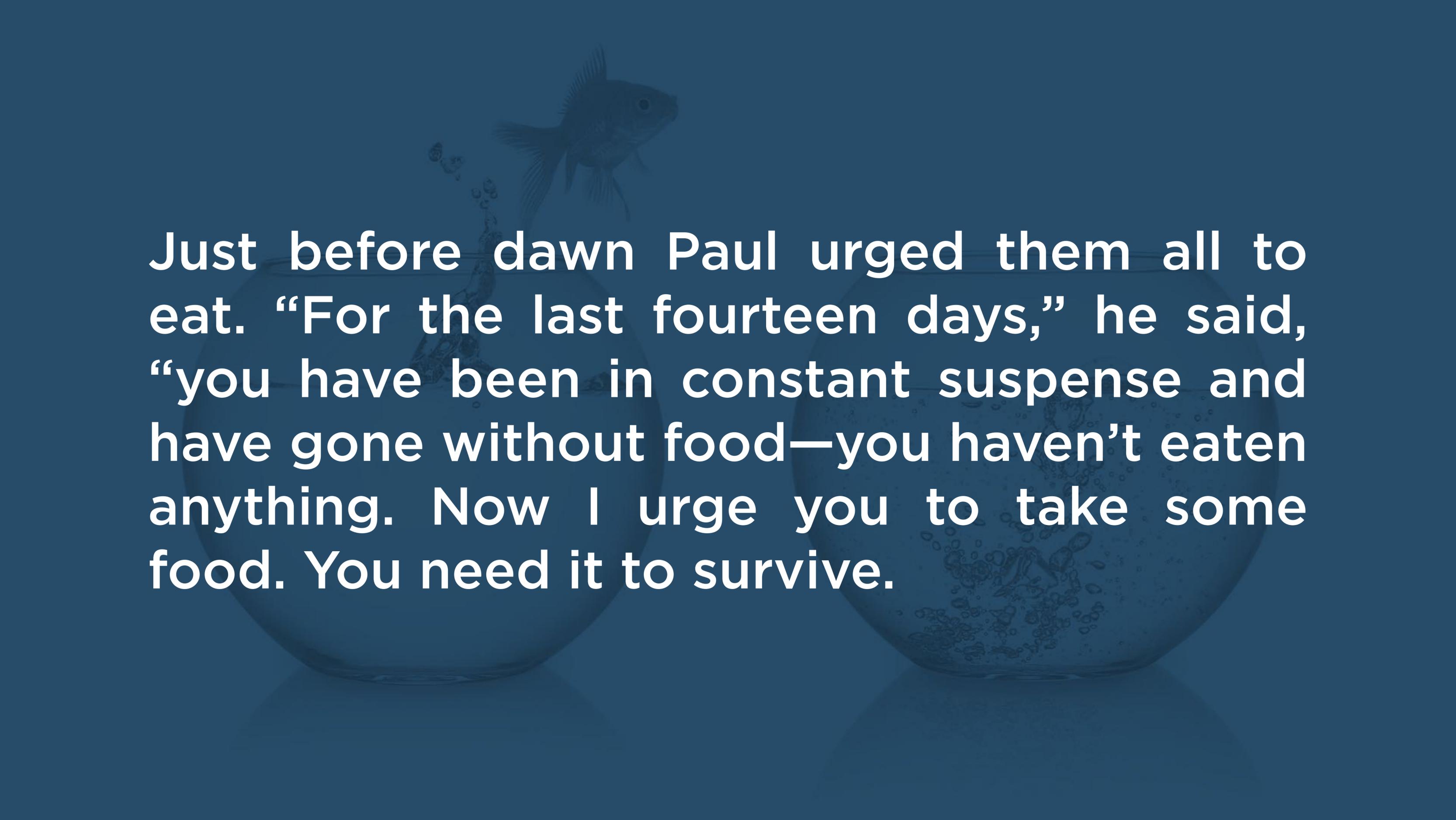
A background image of a fish tank with a fish and bubbles. The fish is dark and positioned in the upper left quadrant. Bubbles are scattered throughout the water, with a cluster in the lower right. The tank is filled with water, and the background is a solid dark blue.

A short time later they took soundings again and found it was ninety feet deep. Fearing that we would be dashed against the rocks, they dropped four anchors from the stern and prayed for daylight.

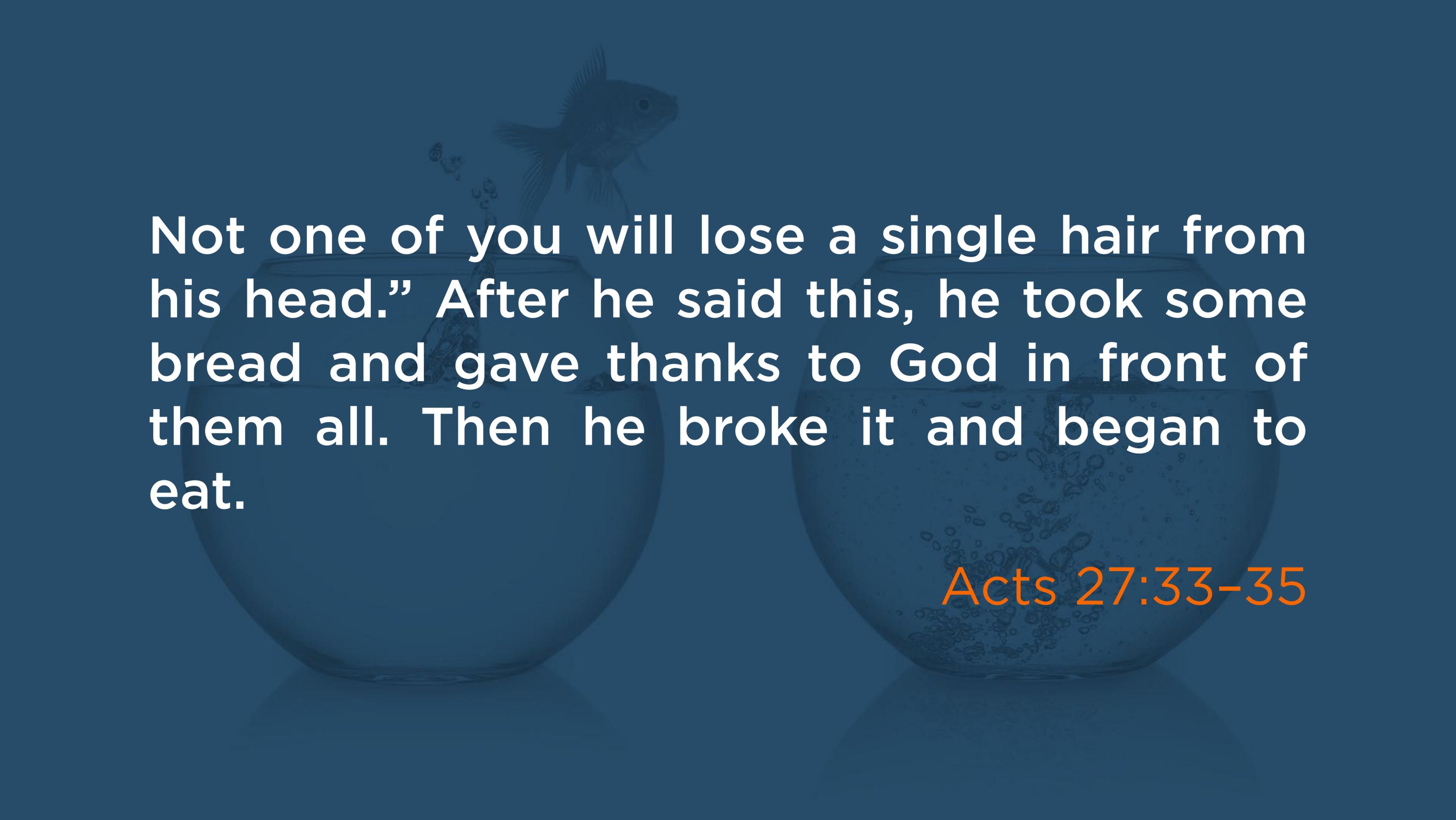
Acts 27:27-29

In an attempt to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea, pretending they were going to lower some anchors from the bow. Then Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, “Unless these men stay with the ship, you cannot be saved.” So the soldiers cut the ropes that held the lifeboat and let it drift away.

Acts 27:30-32



Just before dawn Paul urged them all to eat. “For the last fourteen days,” he said, “you have been in constant suspense and have gone without food—you haven’t eaten anything. Now I urge you to take some food. You need it to survive.

The background features two goldfish bowls. The bowl on the left contains a single goldfish swimming upwards. The bowl on the right is filled with numerous small bubbles. The entire scene is set against a dark blue background.

Not one of you will lose a single hair from his head.” After he said this, he took some bread and gave thanks to God in front of them all. Then he broke it and began to eat.

Acts 27:33–35



Bless
the
Bread

They were all encouraged and ate some food themselves. Altogether there were 276 of us on board. When they had eaten as much as they wanted, they lightened the ship by throwing the grain into the sea. When daylight came, they did not recognize the land, but they saw a bay with a sandy beach, where they decided to run the ship aground if they could.

Acts 27:36-39

Cutting loose the anchors, they left them in the sea and at the same time untied the ropes that held the rudders. Then they hoisted the foresail to the wind and made for the beach. But the ship struck a sandbar and ran aground. The bow stuck fast and would not move, and the stern was broken to pieces by the pounding of the surf.

Acts 27:40-41

The soldiers planned to kill the prisoners to prevent any of them from swimming away and escaping. But the centurion wanted to spare Paul's life and kept them from carrying out their plan. He ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and get to land. The rest were to get there on planks or on other pieces of the ship. In this way everyone reached land safely.

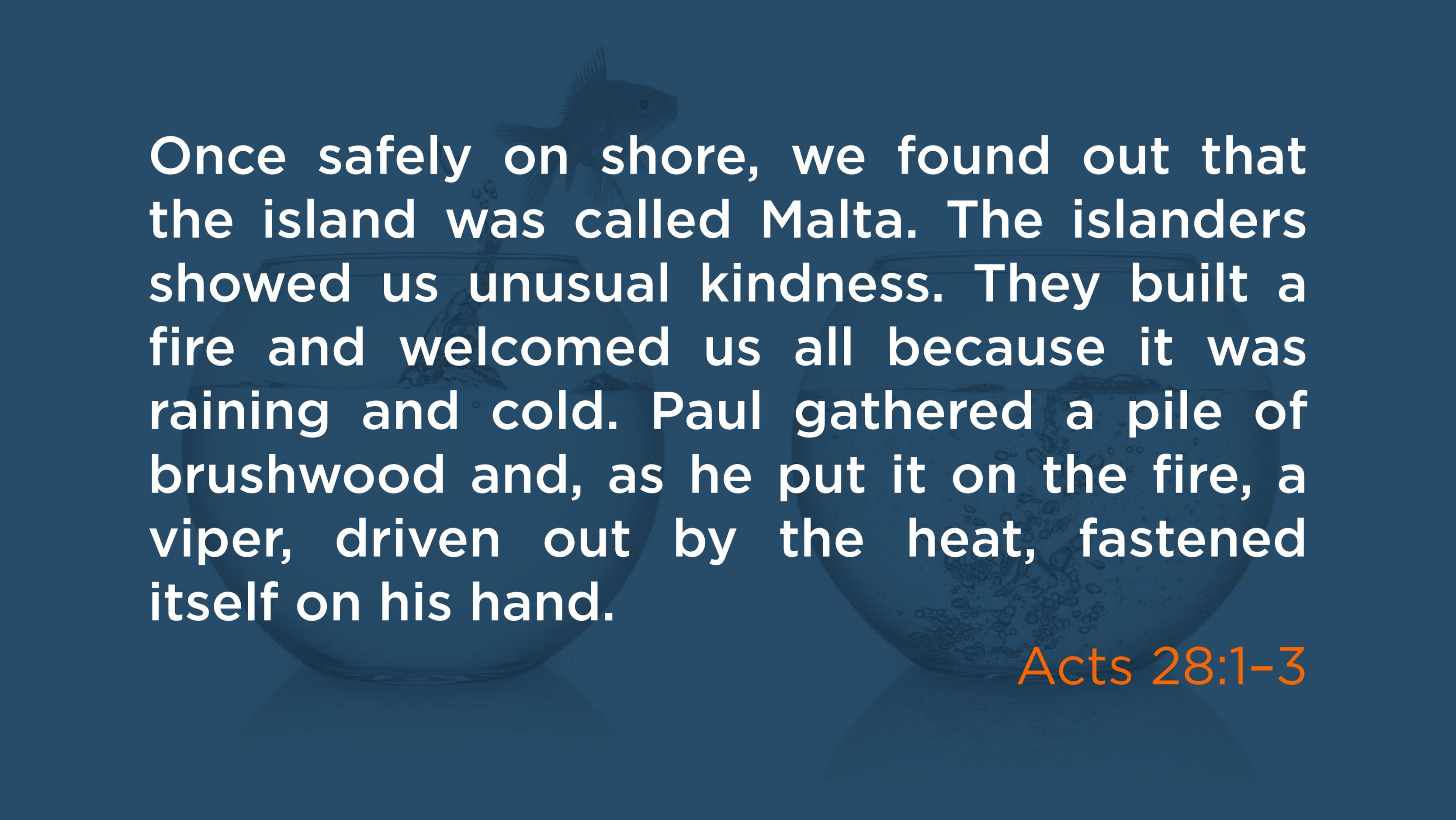
Acts 27:42-44



Believe

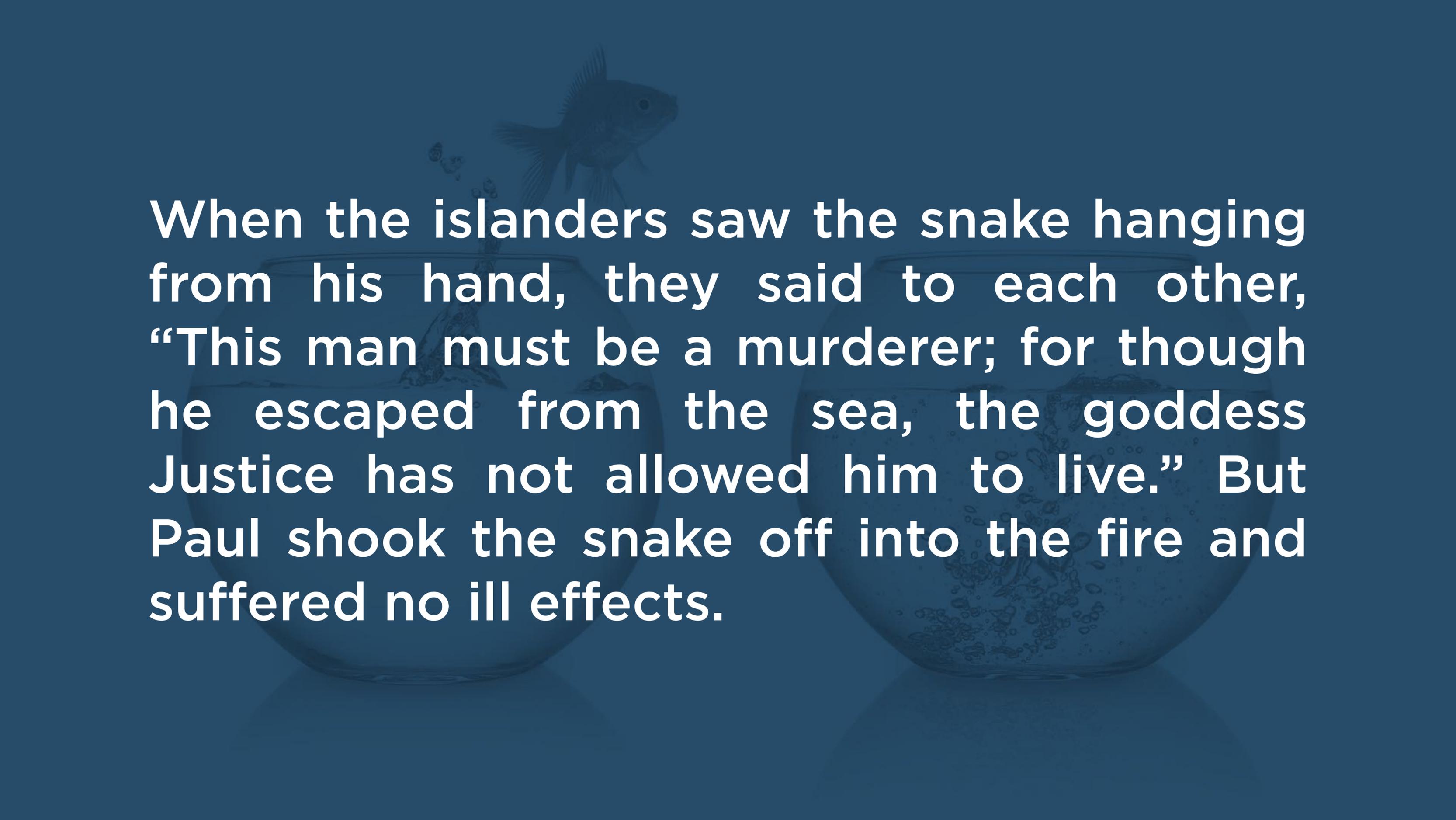
the

Best

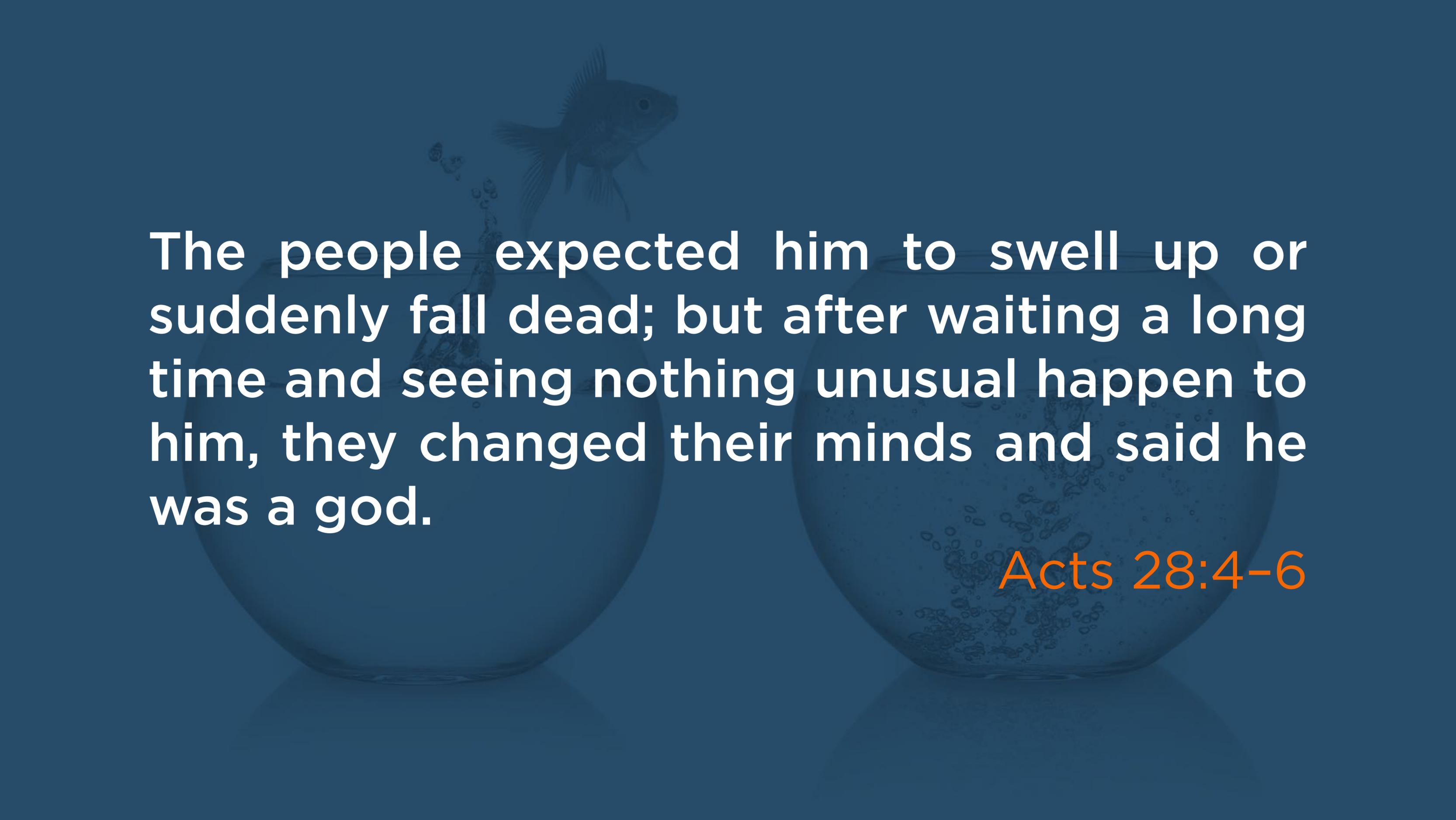
A dark blue background featuring a faint, semi-transparent image of a fishbowl. Inside the bowl, a fish is visible at the top, and numerous bubbles are rising from the bottom. The text is overlaid on this background in a white, sans-serif font.

Once safely on shore, we found out that the island was called Malta. The islanders showed us unusual kindness. They built a fire and welcomed us all because it was raining and cold. Paul gathered a pile of brushwood and, as he put it on the fire, a viper, driven out by the heat, fastened itself on his hand.

Acts 28:1-3

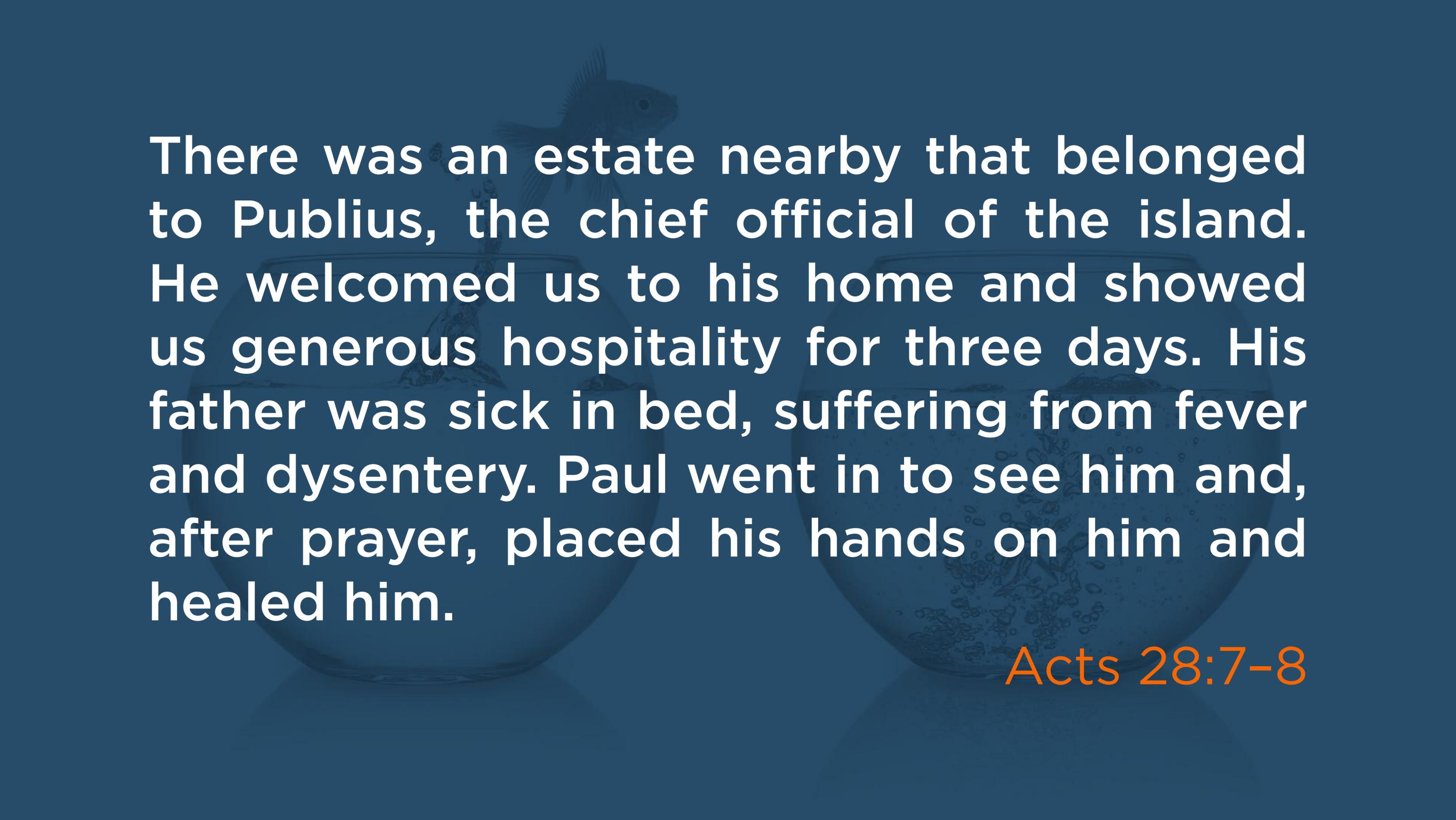
The background of the slide is a dark blue gradient. In the upper left, there is a faint, semi-transparent image of a fish swimming. In the lower half, there are two large, semi-transparent circular shapes that resemble bubbles or the bottom of a fish tank, with some faint, lighter blue patterns inside them.

When the islanders saw the snake hanging from his hand, they said to each other, “This man must be a murderer; for though he escaped from the sea, the goddess Justice has not allowed him to live.” But Paul shook the snake off into the fire and suffered no ill effects.



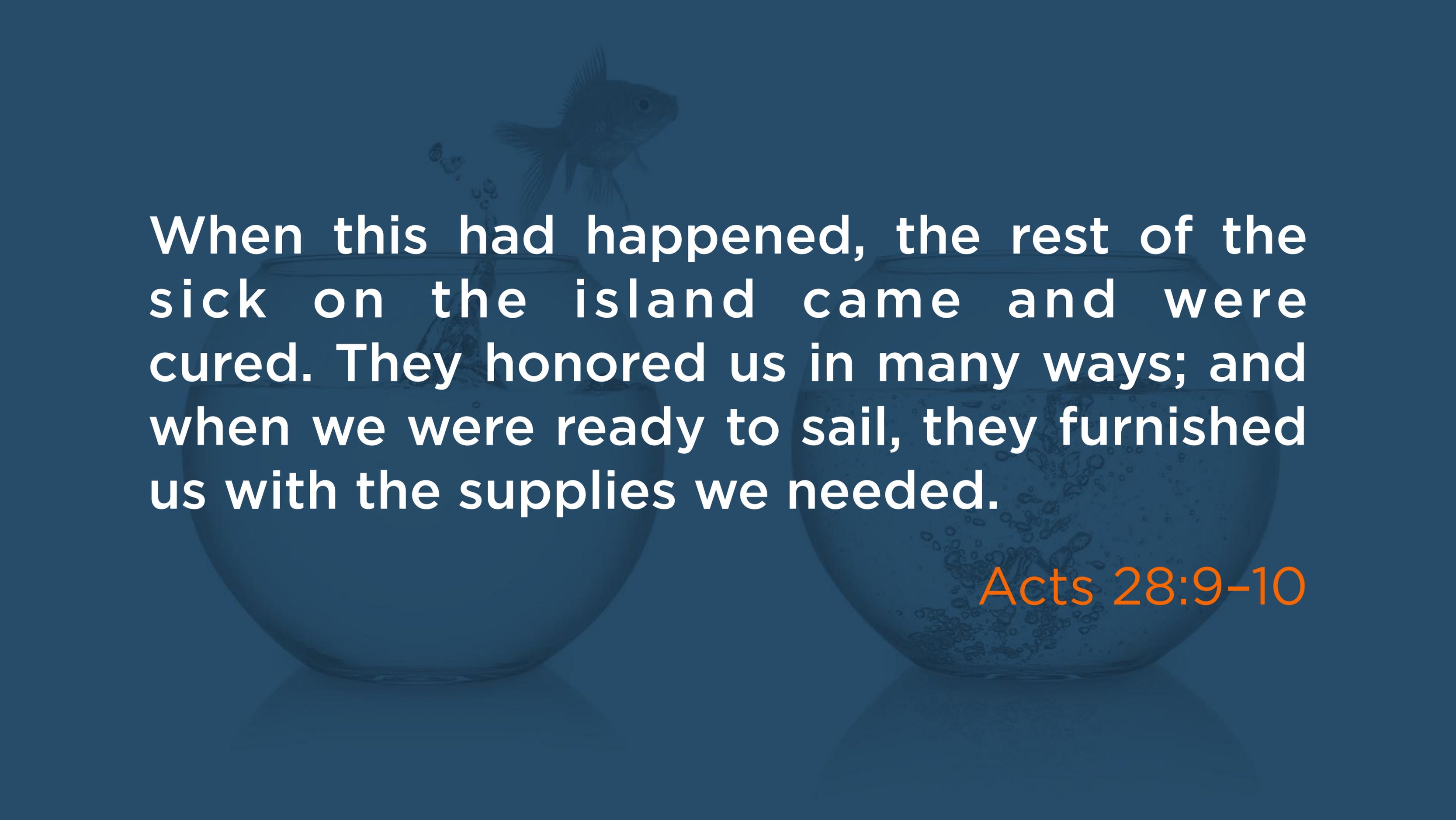
The people expected him to swell up or suddenly fall dead; but after waiting a long time and seeing nothing unusual happen to him, they changed their minds and said he was a god.

Acts 28:4-6

A faint, semi-transparent background image of a goldfish in a glass bowl, positioned behind the text. The goldfish is facing right, and the bowl contains water with some bubbles.

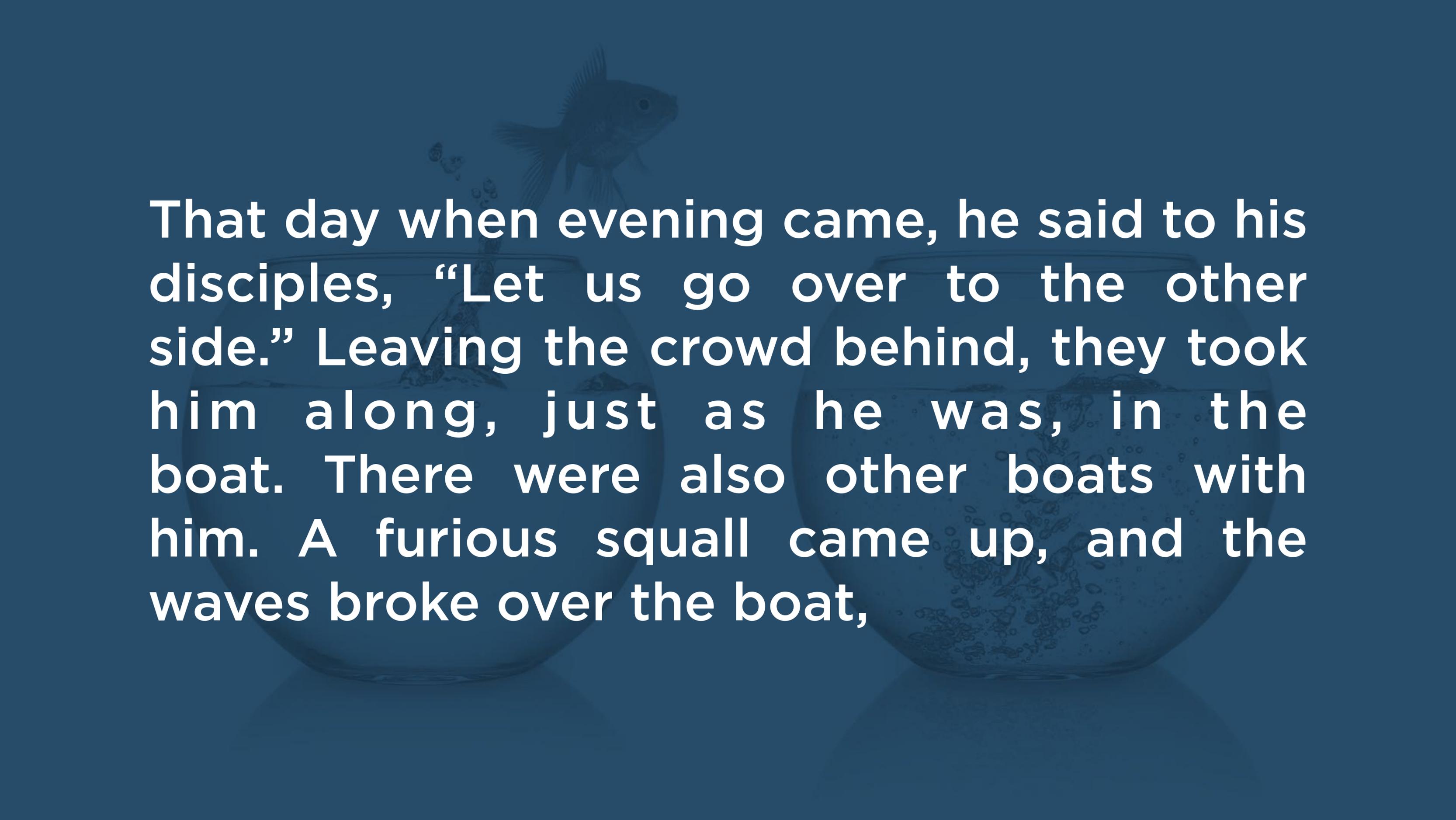
There was an estate nearby that belonged to Publius, the chief official of the island. He welcomed us to his home and showed us generous hospitality for three days. His father was sick in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him and, after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him.

Acts 28:7-8

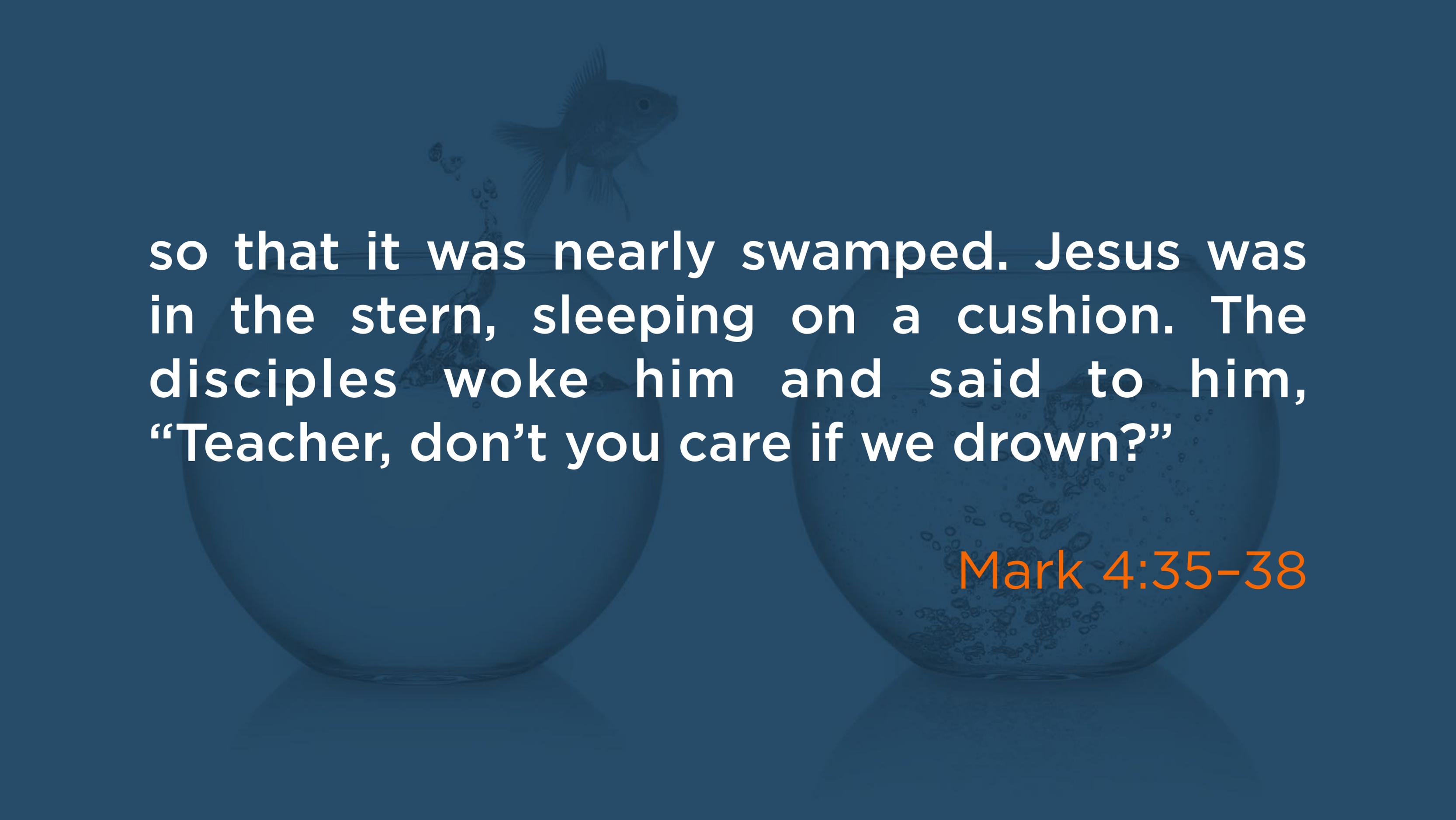
The background features two large, clear glass fishbowls. The bowl on the left contains a single dark-colored fish swimming near the surface. The bowl on the right is filled with numerous small, white bubbles. The entire scene is set against a dark blue background.

When this had happened, the rest of the sick on the island came and were cured. They honored us in many ways; and when we were ready to sail, they furnished us with the supplies we needed.

Acts 28:9-10

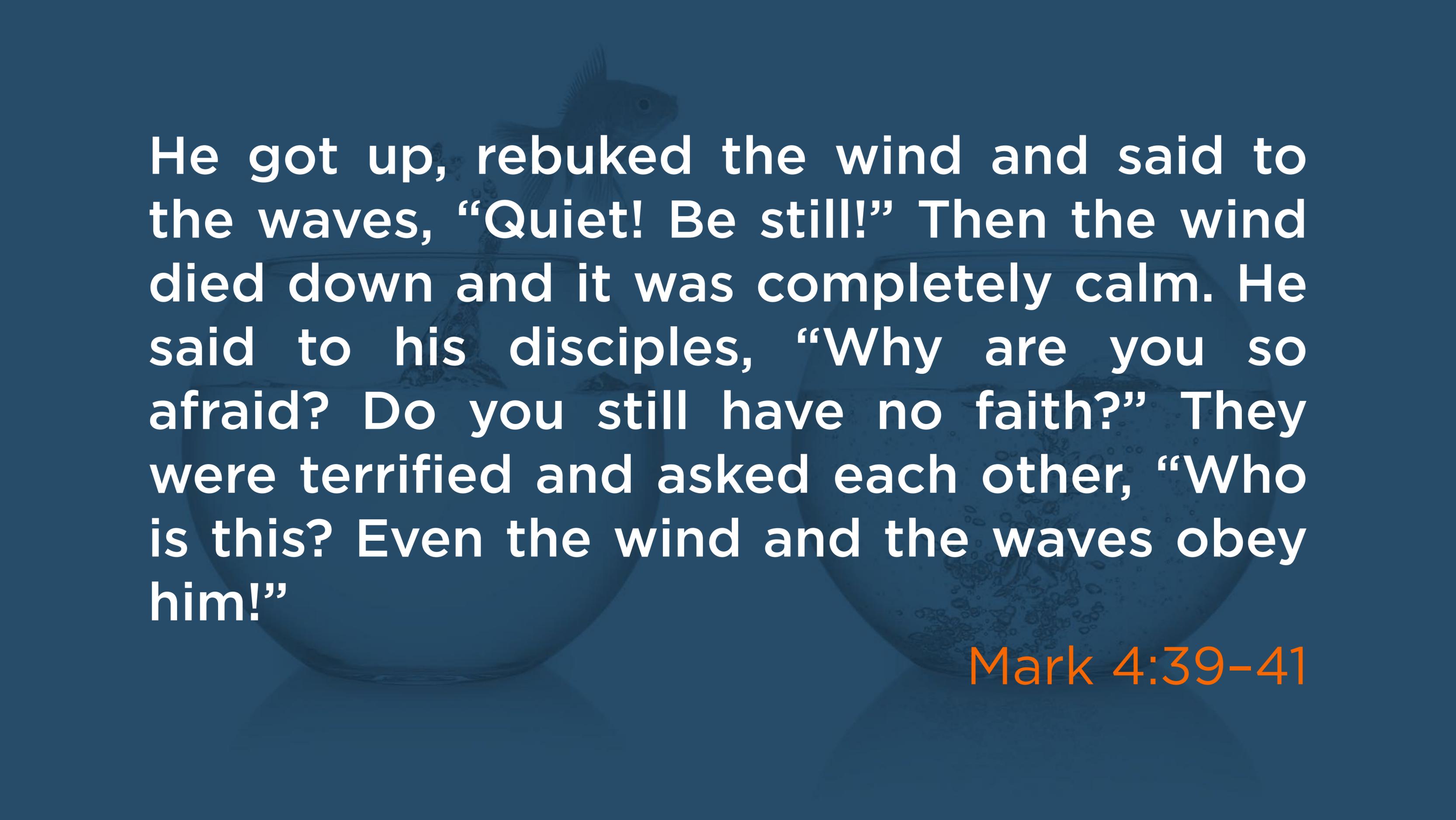


That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat,



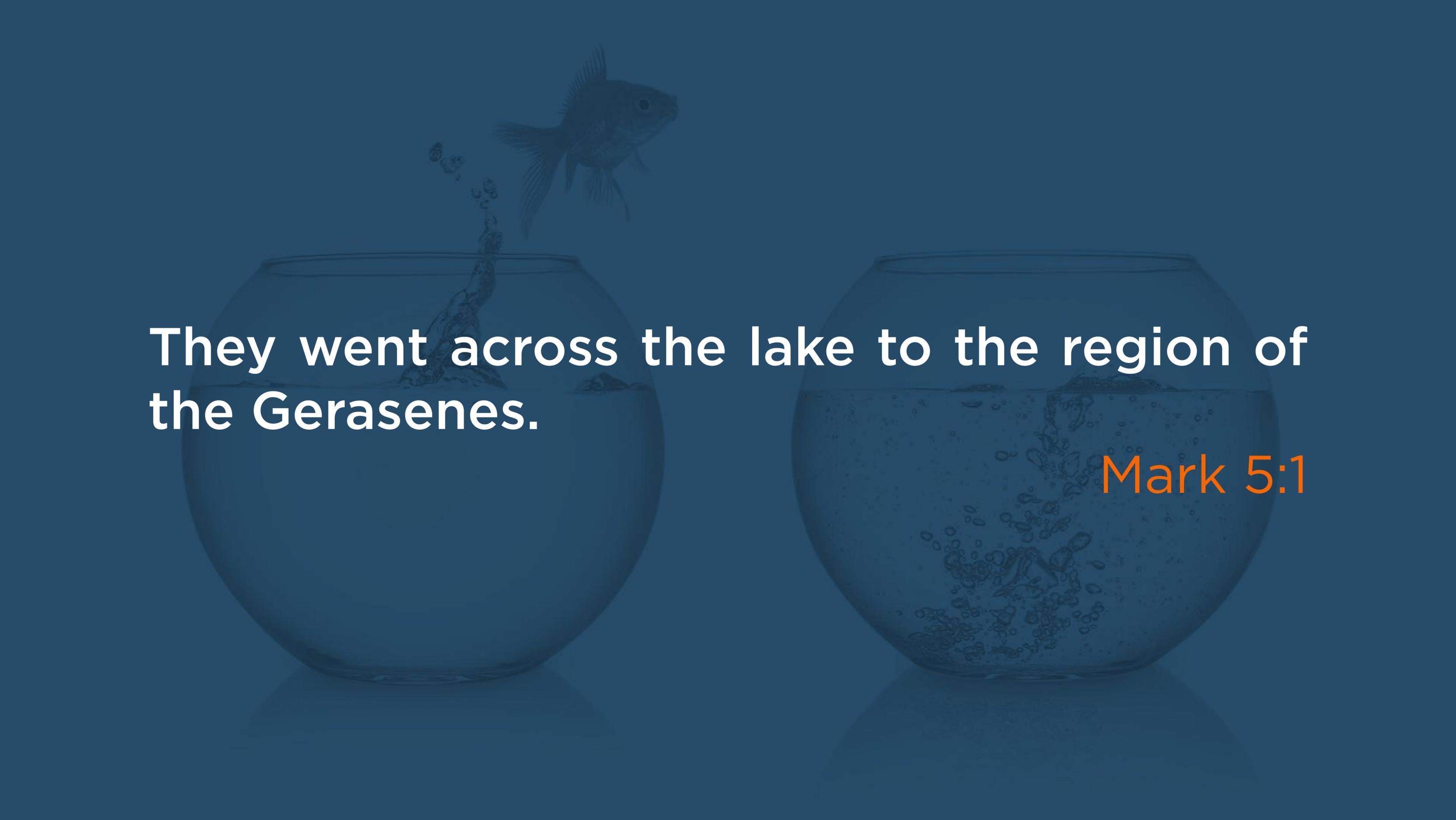
so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?”

Mark 4:35–38



He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?” They were terrified and asked each other, “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!”

Mark 4:39-41

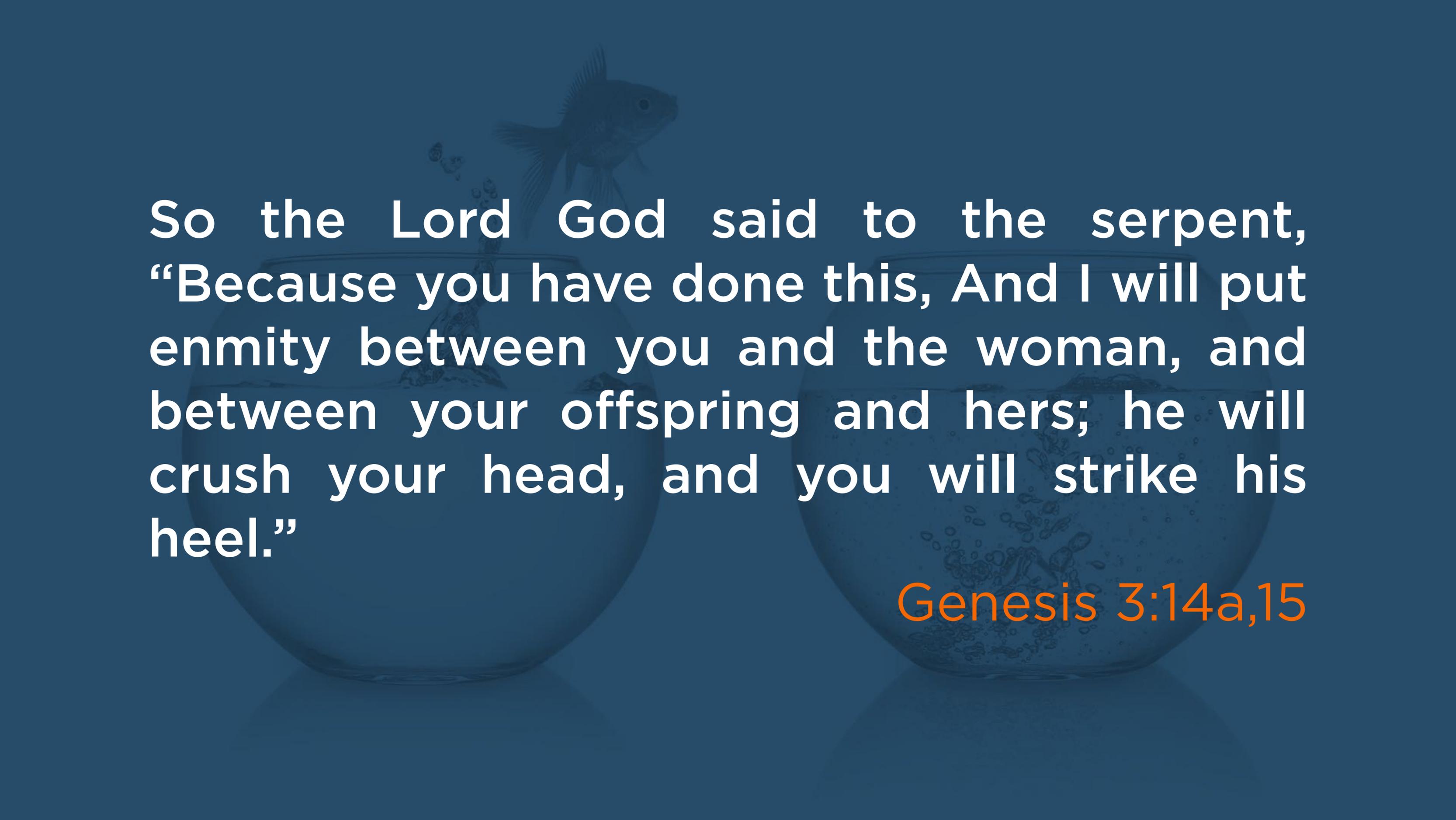


They went across the lake to the region of
the Gerasenes.

Mark 5:1

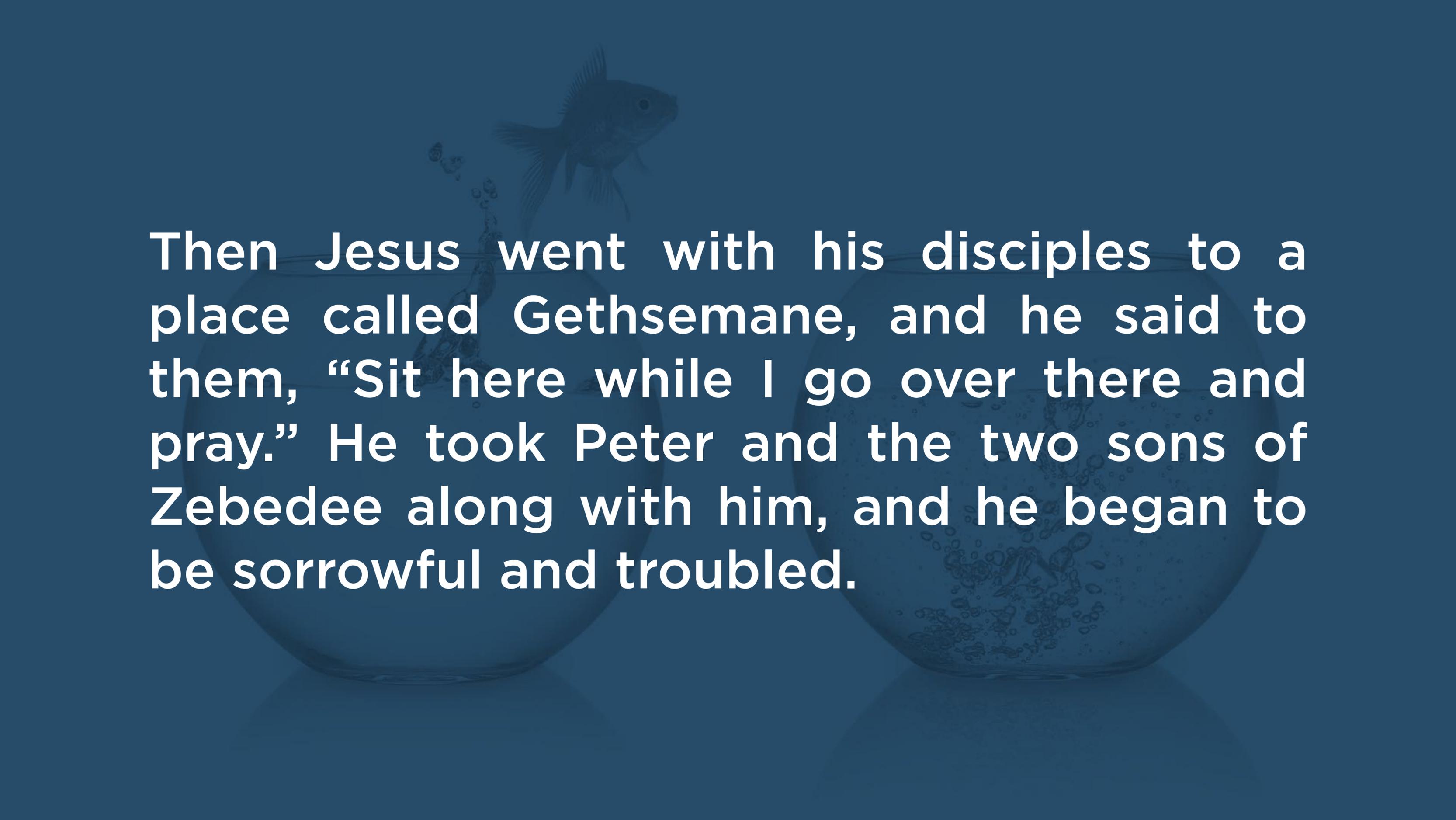
As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. Jesus did not let him, but said, “Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.” So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.

Mark 5:18–20

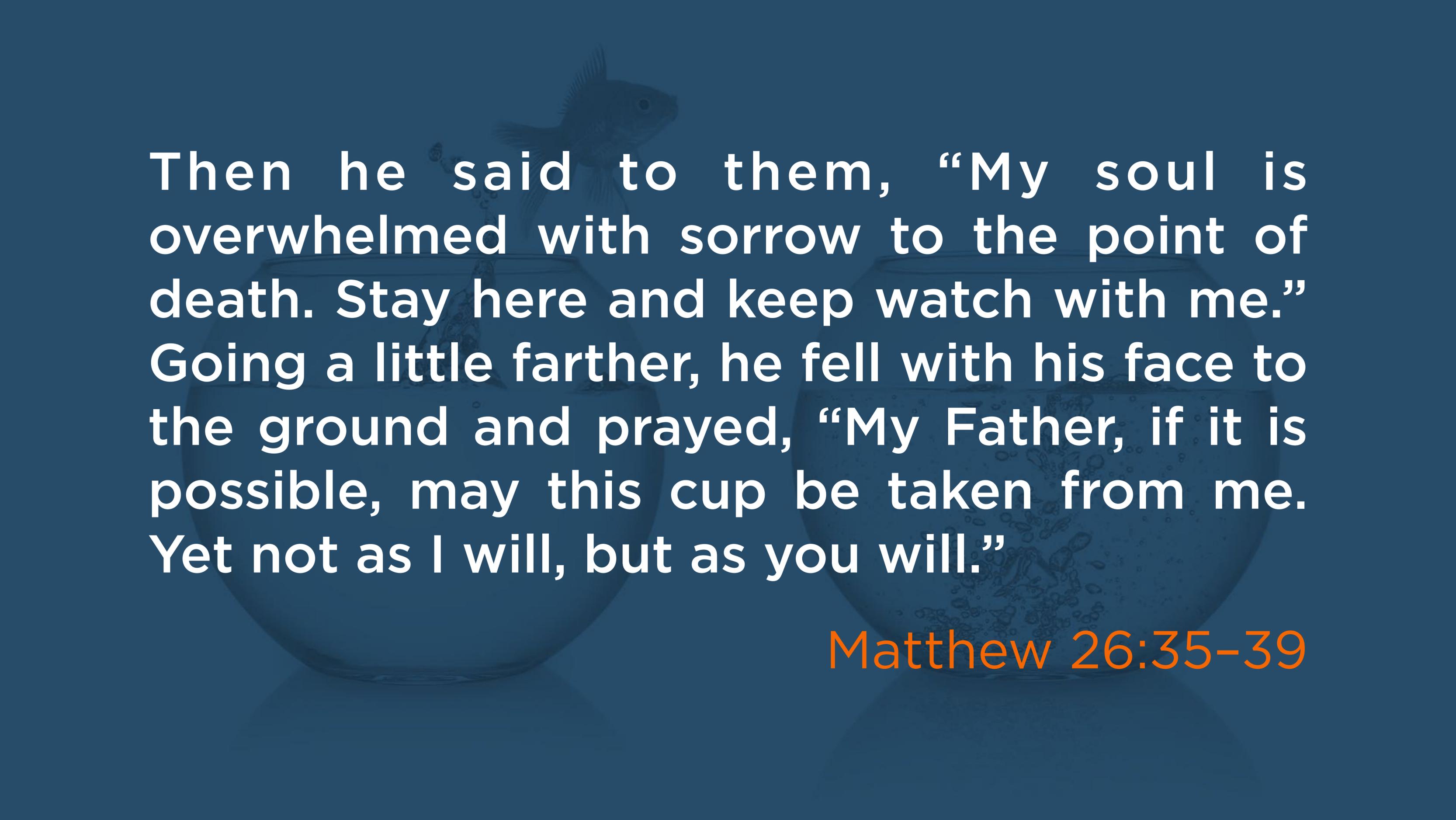
The background features two goldfish bowls. The left bowl contains a single goldfish swimming upwards. The right bowl is filled with numerous small bubbles. The entire scene is set against a dark blue background.

So the Lord God said to the serpent,
“Because you have done this, And I will put
enmity between you and the woman, and
between your offspring and hers; he will
crush your head, and you will strike his
heel.”

Genesis 3:14a,15

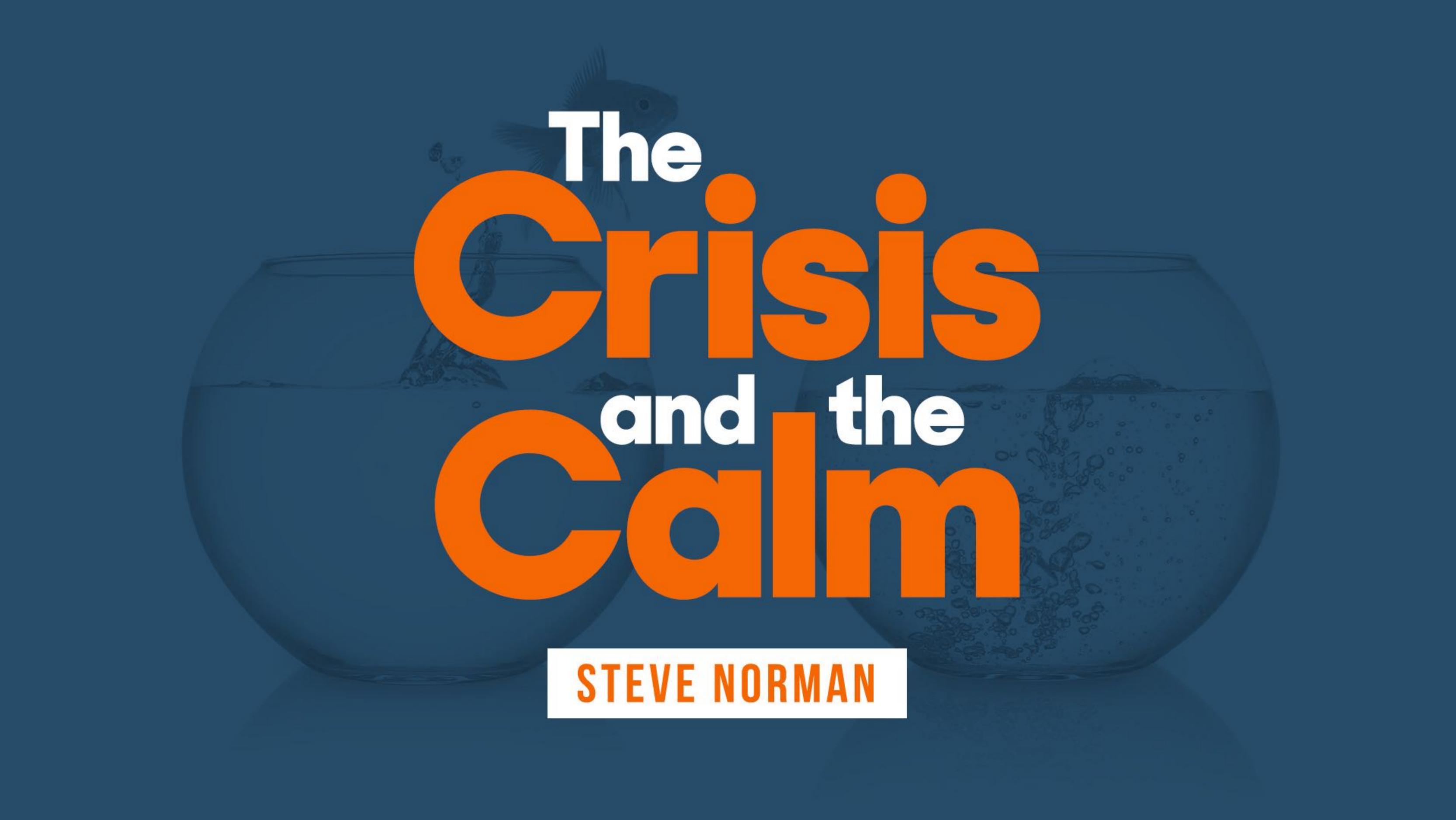


Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled.



Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.” Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

Matthew 26:35–39



The
Crisis
and the
Calm

STEVE NORMAN