# Rescue at Sea

By Dan Clark from A 2nd Helping of Chicken Soup for the Soul  
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Years ago, in a small fishing village a young boy taught the world about the rewards of unselfish service. Because the entire village *revolved* around the fishing industry, a volunteer *rescue* team was needed in cases of emergency. One night the winds raged, the clouds *burst* and a *gale force* storm *capsized* a fishing boat at sea.

*Stranded* and in trouble, the crew sent out the *S.O.S*. The captain of the rescue *rowboat* team sounded the alarm and the villagers *assembled* in the town square overlooking the bay. While the team *launched* their rowboat and fought their way through the wild waves, the villagers waited *restlessly* on the beach, holding lanterns to light the way back.

An hour later, the rescue boat *reappeared* through the *fog* and the cheering villagers ran to greet them. Falling *exhausted* on the sand, the volunteers reported that the rescue boat could not hold any more passengers and they had to leave one man behind. Even one more passenger would have surely capsized the rescue boat and all would have been lost.

*Frantically*, the captain called for another volunteer team to go after the *lone* survivor. Sixteen-year-old Mike stepped forward. His mother grabbed his arm, pleading, "Please don't go. Your father died in a shipwreck ten years ago and your older brother, Paul, has been lost at sea for three weeks. Mike, you are all I have left." Mike replied, "Mother, I have to go.”

“What if everyone said, 'I can't go, let someone else do it? Mother, this time I have to do my duty. When the call for service comes, we all need to take our turn and do our part." Mike kissed his mother, joined the team and disappeared into the night. Another hour passed, which seemed to his mother like an *eternity*.

Finally, the rescue boat *darted* through the fog with Mike standing up in the *bow*. *Cupping* his hands, the people called out, "Did you find the lost man?" Barely able to contain himself, Mike excitedly yelled back,

"Yes, we found him. Tell my mother it's my older brother, Paul!"