

Acts
Humility in the Face of Adversity
Acts 21:15-22:21

Novelist D. H. Lawrence, writing in 1924, believed that any sense of daring or adventure had been stripped from Christianity. All that was left was the brittle shell of suppression and safe respectability, brought on in his opinion by a repressive legalism and repressive morality imposed on people by the church. For him, Christianity was a spent force, something no longer able to change the world as it had in the first century.

1. Our freedom in Christ is exercised with humility.

2. Our suffering in Christ is managed with humility.

3. Our story in Christ is told with humility.

Tony Merida mentions three things that Paul models for us in his defense of the gospel. His humility allowed him to remain calm. His humility allowed him to muster up courage. His trust in Christ allowed him to be faithful to his calling. Paul's assignment was to proclaim the gospel, no matter what. That assignment is ours as well. May Christ find us faithful with the gospel that He has entrusted to us.

For further consideration

What does it mean to defend the faith? When might you need to defend? What do you need to do, if anything, that will help you defend the faith when the time comes? Is there someone in your life who needs to hear the gospel, but for whatever, hasn't heard it from you? Would you take a moment to pray for the kind of boldness that Christ promises to those who will spend time with Him? Would you commit to spending time with Jesus so that when the time comes to defend the faith, you will stand as Paul stood with confidence in what Christ has accomplished? Mohler wrote, "We can easily entrench ourselves in our own freedom and thus paralyze our ability to serve others." This is hard to see in our own lives, but can you spot areas in which you are most tempted to idolize your freedom or preferences? What would it look like to worship Christ in those areas instead?