

ARRESTED

ACTS 21-25

ARRESTED PART 2: DON'T QUIT

Have you ever found yourself punched in the face by life? Has your faith ever been kicked so hard that you didn't think you could make it? What if it was possible to develop some spiritual toughness. What if you could walk with Jesus in such a way that you actually develop the resilience to bounce back from spiritual beatdowns?

BIG IDEA: Problems are never permanent if you persevere. Failures are never final if you persevere.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was one of the most raucous crowd scenes you have ever been apart of? What made it so wild? How did you react?
2. With your Bible or Bible App, read [Acts 22:22-29](#).

The crowd listened until Paul said that word. Then they all began to shout, "Away with such a fellow! He isn't fit to live!" They yelled, threw off their coats, and tossed handfuls of dust into the air. The commander brought Paul inside and ordered him lashed with whips to make him confess his crime. He wanted to find out why the crowd had become so furious. When they tied Paul down to lash him, Paul said to the officer standing there, "Is it legal for you to whip a Roman citizen who hasn't even been tried?" When the officer heard this, he went to the commander and asked, "What are you doing? This man is a Roman citizen!" So the commander went over and asked Paul, "Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?" "Yes, I certainly am," Paul replied. "I am, too," the commander muttered, "and it cost me plenty!" Paul answered, "But I am a citizen by birth!" The soldiers who were about to interrogate Paul quickly withdrew when they heard he was a Roman citizen, and the commander was frightened because he had ordered him bound and whipped. [Acts 20:22-24 \(NLT\)](#)

3. How did Paul respond in the face of persecution? In comparison, how do you tend to respond when you face circumstances that test your faith?
4. Discuss the three ways that Chris taught us we can cultivate a faith that can take a beating: 1) Make sure you have encountered Jesus, 2) Live your life in the rhythms of Jesus, and 3) See your circumstances in the light of Jesus. How do these 3 things help our faith become resilient?
5. Do you remember a time when you surrendered your will to Jesus? If you feel comfortable, share your story with the group.
6. What are some examples of these "rhythms of Jesus"? Which ones do you regularly practice? Which ones do you struggle with?
7. What hard circumstances are you facing in your life? How can you view these from God's perspective, or as an opportunity to share Jesus?

MOVING FORWARD

The truth is that *perseverance* is the path to success. What separates ordinary people from extraordinary people is not their talent or connections or intelligence or opportunities, it's *perseverance*. And this is really good news for you and me, because we can *persevere*. It means it's okay if you're not extremely talented, if you don't know the right people, if you're not highly educated. What matters is that you *don't quit*. Because what separates the average people from the amazing is not who they know or what they know, it's *perseverance*.

We see this in every arena of life. Michael Jordan was cut from his high school basketball team because he wasn't good enough. U2's career started out so poorly they couldn't afford their third world tour, so they put it on their manager's credit card, and the band didn't make enough to afford the payments. Steve Jobs founded Apple Computers, and then got fired from Apple Computers. All these folks ended up doing pretty well. Why? Well, it wasn't luck. It wasn't easy for them. No, it's because they chose to persevere.

We see this in every arena of life, and I think it's especially true with God, with living for Him, with our spiritual lives. No one is lucky when it comes to that, no one is born with special advantages, it's not easy for anyone. But some people achieve great faith. They have real intimacy with God, they have amazing influence

with their lives. We assume that those people are just more spiritual or they're more gifted—that's why they live more extraordinary lives. No it's not. That's a lie. *Perseverance* is the path to greatness. People who become great spiritually, who live great lives for God, are people who *persevere*. They're people who keep looking up when life is upside down, who keep moving forward when the world is pushing them backwards, and who keep finding opportunities when all they can see are obstacles.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Would you say that your faith could take a beating? What do you feel like God is calling you to do in response to the weekend message? This week, commit to make sure you have encountered Jesus, to live your life in the rhythms of Jesus, and to see your circumstances in the light of Jesus. And whatever you do, don't quit. Because *Problems are never permanent if you persevere, and failures are never final if you persevere.*

WEEKLY READING

This week, spend some time reading and reflecting on 2 Corinthians James 1:2-5, 1 Peter 1:6-7, 1 Peter 5:8-10, Philippians 4:6-13.

