

CHRISTIANITY NOW AND THEN
(PART 3)
Luke's Story: "In Over My Head"

Acts 27:1-44

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Following Jesus can make us feel like we've gotten ourselves in over our heads—literally and figuratively—because of the tough challenges we sometimes go through in life by faith.

*** If we are "in over our heads" in situations as a result of following Christ, we can learn to:**

1. Experience the adventure of _____ by _____.

Paul wrote: "...I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through Him who gives me strength. Philippians 4:11-13

And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19

2. Use powerful, real life _____ to tell the good news.

See the story found in Acts 20:7-12

Paul wrote to the Corinthians believers: "You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everybody. You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts." 2 Corinthians 3:2-3

3. Develop deep _____ to the cause of Christ.

See 2 Corinthians 11:22-33

Loyally serving the cause of Christ with others develops loyalty to our co-laborers also. Luke mentioned in Acts 20:4-5 eight ministry partners (including himself) that traveled with Paul. The apostle, "...was accompanied by Sopater son of Pyrrhus from Berea, Aristarchus and Secundus from Thessalonica, Gaius from Derbe, Timothy also, and Tychicus and Trophimus from the province of Asia. These men went on ahead and waited for us at Troas."

4. Find life's greatest fulfillment in _____

Paul said: "In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus Himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" Acts 20:35

Discover the adventure of "being in over your head" with Christ...

1. Luke was a physician who found great fulfillment in serving others as a way to serve Christ. He sometimes did this at the risk of his life, but the life of faith he lived was a joyful adventure. Are you following the Lord by faith each day? Is your life a joyful adventure in Christ, or is something missing?
2. Our lives are stories of what Christ is doing in us and through us. How does your story read? Is it an inspiration to others? Or does it read like a boring novel with no plot? Will it be a story with a tragic ending? The choice is ours each day as we choose between Christ's way and the world's way.
3. Luke wrote to a friend named Theophilus to tell in more detail the story of Jesus (in Luke) and His Church (in the book of Acts). Do you have a friend who needs your help in understanding about Jesus and what He can do in his or her life? Have you invited your friends that are seeking God to join you in worship at FBC?