

Hi, I'm Crawford Loritts with a Legacy Moment. Sometimes we spend too much time defending ourselves.

When faced with unfounded criticism, Charles Haddon Spurgeon, the famed British preacher, would often say, “It is the nature of dogs to bark.” Now, I don't think he was calling people dogs. Instead, I think he meant that some people, no matter what you say or do, will criticize you and draw their own conclusions, never mind the facts.

If you've ever been the recipient of this kind of latent cynicism and disbelief, you realize there's a point at which it's ridiculous to even try to respond. Instead, you have to allow God to vindicate you.

Acts chapter 28 verses 4 through 6 records an incredible experience that Paul and those traveling with him have on the island of Malta. They've been shipwrecked, and Paul is gathering some firewood. A snake latches on to Paul. Listen to verse 4 through 6; “When the native people saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, ‘No doubt this man is a murderer. Though he has escaped from the sea, Justice has not allowed him to live.’ He, however, shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm. They were waiting for him to swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But when they had waited a long time and saw no misfortune come to him, they changed their minds and said that he was a god.”

That little story underscores two very important things. Number one, what the people saw and concluded was not really accurate. And number two, what eventually happens to you will speak for itself. It's hard to argue with the proof.

Here's what I want you to remember today. Don't waste too much time trying to silence the barking dogs. Let God protect you and vindicate you. Besides, sometimes the best course of action is to say nothing.