

# Unstoppable

*Doing What We Should Do While God Does What Only He Can Do*

## **“Letting Go of Your Grip on this Life”**

**Acts 20:17-38**

*Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Sept. 25, 2016*

### **I. Letting Go of What You Think is True is What Gives You the Courage to Proclaim a Biblical Worldview**

**Acts 20:20** “... I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house.”

**Acts 20:27** “For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.”

If you're willing to bring all of God's Word to bear on a person's life, culture, and priorities then you will offend and upset them at some point. God's ways are not our ways and His thoughts are not our thoughts.

We must fight the temptation to water down or twist God's Word so that we can fit into our culture. If we only defend Biblical truths that are acceptable to others then we're not showing courage, but compromise.

**Isaiah 5:20-21** “Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!”

We must not be seduced into thinking the world's sin patterns are the norm nor should we start living like the world.

### **II. Letting Go of Promoting Yourself is What Leads to the Humility of Resting in Christ**

**Acts 20:19** “Serving the Lord with all humility...”

The way the word ‘humility’ is worded in this verse indicates that this is a virtue that needs to encompass all that we do.

Living for you and living for Jesus are mutually exclusive. You can either promote you or you can promote the Lord Jesus Christ, but you can't do both. For Jesus to loom large, you have to lay low and stay low.

**I Cor. 4:1** “So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God.” (NIV)

### **III. Letting Go of Your Need to Look Strong is What Frees Your Heart to Add Tears to Your Truth**

Without adding tears to your truth, it's not likely you'll see much impact on the people around you.

**Acts 20:19** “... with many tears”

**Acts 20:31** “... remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.”

**Acts 20:37** “Then they all wept freely, and fell on Paul's neck and kissed him.”

Serving the Lord means getting so intensely involved in people's struggles that you cry over them! The longer you walk closely with people who are struggling and see the weight of sin up close, the more easily and often you cry.

Christianity is a religion that has a suffering Savior at the center of it who was brokenhearted over condition of men and women who had been trapped and lied to by our enemy – Satan.

**Luke 19:41** "... as he drew near, He saw the city and wept over it."

Just like today, Paul had many enemies attacking him over the cause of Christ, yet he wept for them.

**Philippians 3:18-19** "For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is their shame – who set their mind on earthly things."

#### **IV. Letting Go of Your Own Petty Plans is What Forges Friendships that are Deeper than What the World Ever Knows**

**Acts 20:36-38** "<sup>36</sup> And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. <sup>37</sup> Then they all wept freely, and fell on Paul's neck and kissed him, <sup>38</sup> sorrowing most of all for the words which he spoke, that they would see his face no more. And they accompanied him to the ship."

You can't have genuine friendship or community without truth. Meaningful friendship requires common convictions but it also requires vulnerability, transparency, tears and a willingness to open up and really share your heart.

If you want some great friends, set your sight on serving Christ and you'll end up with your life tangled up in truth and tears with other believers who are doing the same. There's a camaraderie in living for what matters most.

#### **V. Letting Go of Protecting Your Life Will Change What Danger Looks Like for You**

**Acts 20:22-24** "<sup>22</sup> And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, <sup>23</sup> except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. <sup>24</sup> But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God."

When your main concern stops being preserving and protecting your life, you stop needing to know the details about tomorrow. Going without knowing is what characterizes the person who no longer counts their life dear to themselves.

When you stop counting your life as dear to you, it increases your chance of doing two things: finishing well and finishing with joy.