IMPACTERS COMMUNITIES

A Work of The Catholic Guy Ministry

FOLLOWING GOD BEYOND WHAT WE CAN SEE

SUMMARY

In this personal and candid address, Bruce Downes shares the story behind his and his wife Rosemary's move to Los Angeles as part of a long-held missionary calling to bring the gospel to the ends of the earth. Rooted in a conviction received in his teenage years, Bruce explains that America is not the destination but a strategic base from which the gospel message can reach the entire world. He challenges listeners to understand that every Christian is a missionary, called to be an "IMPACTER" wherever they are. Drawing on 2 Chronicles 20, he acknowledges the overwhelming nature of the task while anchoring his confidence in God rather than human resources or strategy. The Message is a call to holiness, obedience, and participation in a global spiritual army that fights not through force but through prayer, love, mercy, service, and proclamation.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Every Christian is, by definition, an IMPACTER - someone who has been touched by God and who touches others for God.
- Obedience to God's calling takes priority over personal happiness or measurable success.
- The battle belongs to God. Our role is to fix our eyes on him, not on the size of the obstacles before us.
- A missionary is not only someone sent overseas. A missionary is anyone carrying a God-given burden and acting on it in their home, their workplace, their parish, and their community.
- Holiness is not an abstract ideal. It is the practical decision to do what God is asking you to do, right now, where you are.
- God's presence is already at work in the world around us. Our calling is to help people become aware of that presence and respond to it.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

- 2 Chronicles 20, verses 10, 12, and 15, in which King Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah face an overwhelming enemy army and cry out to God, acknowledging their powerlessness and fixing their eyes on him, and a prophet declares that the battle belongs not to them but to God
- 2 Corinthians 12, in which Paul speaks of God's grace being sufficient and power being made perfect in weakness
- 2 Timothy, in which Paul, writing from prison near the end of his life, urges Timothy to carry the mission forward, illustrating the importance of raising up successors and younger leaders

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SMALL GROUP GUIDE

This guide is designed to help your small group dive deeper into the message.

OPENING PRAYER

Invite the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and open hearts to God's transforming work. Pray the **IMPACTERS** Community Prayer .

OVERVIEW

In this message, Bruce Downes shares the personal and spiritual journey behind a significant life transition, using it as a launching point to challenge every believer to embrace their own missionary calling - not necessarily to a foreign country, but wherever God has placed them. The central theme is that obedience to God's call matters more than comfort, success, or certainty.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Opening

1. When you heard the word "missionary," what image came to mind before this message? Has that image shifted at all after listening? If so, how?
2. Bruce describes the word "inspire" as meaning "to breathe." What has breathed life into your faith recently - a person, a moment, a scripture, an experience?

Going Deeper

3. Bruce says that an IMPACTER is "someone who has been impacted by God who impacts someone else for God," and that this is simply the definition of a mature Christian. Do you agree with that definition? What does it stir up in you - conviction, encouragement, resistance?
4. Jehoshaphat's prayer in 2 Chronicles 20:12 includes the honest admission: "We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you." Have you ever been in a season where that was the most honest prayer you could offer? What did that feel like, and what did God do in that space?
5. Bruce says, "Obedience trumps success. And obedience always beats your personal happiness." How does that statement sit with you? Where in your own life is God asking for obedience in an area where success or comfort feels uncertain?
6. The message makes a distinction between being called to follow Jesus and being called to do so in a specific way or place. How clearly do you feel God's call on your life right now - in your home, your work, your community? What makes it hard to hear or act on that call?

7. Bruce describes the mission as helping people become aware of God's presence, which is already at work around them. How might that reframe the way you approach conversations, relationships, or daily life this week?

Personal Reflection

8. Bruce is candid about the personal cost of following this calling - the emotional difficulty, the financial risk, the uncertainty. Have you ever paid a real cost to follow God's leading? What did that teach you about him?
9. Bruce says, "The only success that I truly want is to be in an eternity with him." What does success look like for you right now and how aligned is that with what God might say at the end of your life?
10. Where in your life are you currently playing it safe when God may be inviting you to step out?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

Choose one or more of the following to carry into your week:

- **Spend intentional time in prayer** asking God the question Bruce closes with: "Lord, what is it that you want from me?" Write down what comes to mind, even if it seems small or uncertain.
- **Reflect on a calling you have been carrying.** Write it down. Share it with someone you trust. Ask them to pray with you about the next step.
- **Read 2 Chronicles 20:1-25** on your own this week. Pay attention to how Jehoshaphat leads the people — what he says, what he does, and what God does in response. Bring one observation to share with the group next time.
- **Have a conversation** with someone outside your church or faith community. You do not need an agenda. Simply listen, ask questions, and be present.

CLOSING PRAYER

As you close your time together, pray for one another in the following areas:

- Clarity about personal calling
- Courage to take the next step in obedience, even when the cost is real
- A fresh awareness of God's presence in everyday life
- The people in each group member's life who need to encounter Christ