

## Thursday PM

### By: Gustavo Crocker

[00:00:04.330]

Host: Just a reminder that tonight at 07:00 p.m. for the special session in here we're doing several drives. So, if you can bring clothing, if you can bring hygiene products and then the other one was Bibles. Bible textbooks, chapel tapes, those kinds of things, that would be greatly appreciated. And then also if you have if you could bring a pen. And we'd appreciate if people brought envelopes and either a stamp, thirty-seven cents, a dollar that would be helpful, too.

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There's one change to the seminars this afternoon that we haven't announced yet and that's if you open your booklet, undo the Velcro, and turn to page, the last page, page 21. And the seminar by Judith Rood in White 40 is not going to be on faith in history, it's actually on Jewish and Muslim mission. So, as you're looking at and deciding which one that's what it's going to be about. Let me open us in prayer. Father, thank you for this time You've given us together and it's time to learn what you have for us. Thank you for how much you have taught us how much you are blessing us and drawing us closer to you.

[00:01:22.560]

I ask that we would not be overwhelmed but would be able to process and think through all that we're learning here and have time to get it down into our soul where it can really affect us and come out through our hands and help us to live differently. Teach us again. Today, I ask that you would be with Dr. Gustavo Crocker as he speaks. Give him your word, God. Might he say what

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is right, might he say what is true, might he say it in an appropriate way where we can hear him, God, we can grasp what he's saying. In a way that would really facilitate understanding and the ability to accept what he has to say. Work in all of our hearts and minds. Prepare us for this time and might we be submissive to the moving of your Holy Spirit in our lives. Pray this all in Jesus' name. Amen.

[00:02:32.710]

Crocker: Good afternoon. This is really a bad hour for me to speak to you because I'm a Latino and we normally take siestas. And the problem of siestas is that you don't forget them. So, if you fall asleep on me, no problem. I'm just going to assume that you have Latin blood in you. And if I fall asleep on you? Don't worry. I'm just taking my nap. Okay. It's my siesta. Yesterday we talked about our father's world. There it is. We talk about our father's world and how our world today is not how our father intended it to be.

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And I challenged you to have a global engagement to look at things the way dad thinks about them, the way Daddy thinks of us. I don't believe that there is a Father who has something even a 10% of the heart of God who will think of their children the way this world thinks of population. So yesterday we talked about the global picture, but now we're going to go to the other end so that tomorrow we're going to talk about your church. But today I want to challenge you. Since yesterday we were challenged to think globally, I'm going to challenge now to act locally.

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I don't know when was the last time that you did something radical? I have done a lot of radical things in my life. In fact, while I was doing them, I thought that they were the most radical things. And I realized later they were really stupid, but I did them anyway. I remember one time where I bought a new pair of cat caterpillar boots. I thought they were cool. They looked cool. And an architecture student, big boots. And so, I decided that I was going to go hiking, and I went hiking with my new pair of cat boots, and I did it for about 10 miles. That was not radical. That was stupid, because then I took him off and I had blisters, and I never wanted to see, still, now you show me a pair of big cat boots and you'll hear my Spanish. I hate them.

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I have good memories of those suckers on my feet. Many of us have done in our lives many, many radical things. But I want to challenge you today to do something radical for Jesus. And I was struggling. How do I call this presentation to you? If we are going to do something for Jesus, and we're talking about justice, and how do we do it in such a way that instead of being turned off, you're going to be excited? Now, that's a challenge. But I want to challenge you today to respond righteously, which is the same word that the Bible has for justice.

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In fact, the original translation of Matthew 6:24 that said, seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness. In Spanish, it is translated, seek first the kingdom of God and his justice. There is no difference between righteousness and justice. And here's the question. How do we righteously respond to the crippled world? Even if people think we're nuts. Now, I'm going to give this presentation this weekend in a very conservative church in the East Coast. Now, that's not an

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oxymoron, okay? Conservative church east coast. They do exist. I'm going to give this presentation this coming weekend, and I'm going to delete the part in parentheses because they're going to kick me out of there. But for you, even if people think we are nuts, how can we respond righteously to the crippled world?

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Let me talk to you. I usually don't do this. I don't talk about myself. I think it's kind of corny. But I'm going to do it because after tomorrow, you're not going to see me in a while. So let me tell you what happened to me, because I think that a lot of people still think that I am nuts and they are right. I came to America as I was sharing with you yesterday, and as I was going to school, University of Cincinnati parenthesis. Go Bearcats. Thank you. I paid her \$10 to do that. I went to the University of Cincinnati, and I'm sitting there and going to school and things are going just dandy.

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This deal of going to school and I had learned the language, and now I was doing my masters, and it was pretty cool. But in spite of acing the whole program, every afternoon I went back home, and something was wrong. Here is this architect, this college, prof acing his masters in community planning, getting ready to get a summa cum laude as a full read scholar with University of Cincinnati, with dreams. The dream was very simple. Go back to Guatemala, work with the United Nations. I was getting a degree in international development. I had focused on social architecture, but the slightest idea that I had, was to serve the Lord.

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Yeah, I thought, I want to serve the Lord as an architect. I built churches, I did. That was it. I wanted to be a good layman. All of us do. We say, you know what, I want to keep my career, but I want to be a good layman. I want to stay with what I have. And that was my dream. That was my plan. See? Pretty cool. Architect with a master's in community planning, Fulbright scholar, three languages. Cool. I mean, money is not an issue then, no matter the culture.

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And one Sunday, my pastor is preaching, and in the middle of his sermon, I stood up and I came to the altar. Now, I don't know about you, but if you have somebody coming to the altar in the middle of a sermon, that's pretty weird. So thought my pastor, he said, Gustavo, you're still having problems with your English, don't you? And I said, yeah, why? Well, I was preaching, and I didn't call anyone to come to the altar and right in the middle of the sermon, you stood up and came.

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Said, pastor, I wasn't paying attention to you. I don't even know what you're talking about today. I was listening to the Lord, I was struggling. Went back to my country and I told the dean of my school, I showed up to his office, he thought I had come back with this bunch of degrees, and I was going to sign my contract again. After two years in America and all of this, I was ready to work with the dean and all of this. And he said, Gustavo, are you ready? I said, well, I have news for you. I'm a missionary. And he looked at me, he said, what are you nuts? Yeah, I'm a

missionary. What did those Americans do to you, Gustavo? They didn't do anything to me. The Lord did.

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See, architect Dr. Hernandez, I was in a church. And the Lord called me and all of a sudden, they asked me, the Lord asked me very clearly, I want you to use the skills and tools and all of these, I brought you here not to give you a degree so that you could be the most popular guy, the most famous guy. I gave you this because you have an assignment. And your assignment will be to go to the poorest nations of the world and give freely what you have received freely. It was very clear assignment. Well, he thought I was nuts, so I went to my family, and I told them, and my family thought I was nuts. So, I went to my best friend. And my best friend, he was going to understand me because we were church people, both of us, architects. We had we were partners in the construction firm. And we used to have our drafts in tables and his across mine. And we were drawing and talking and drawing and talking and dreaming and drawing churches. And we were good church people. So, my friend, best friend Mordecai was going to understand me, so I go with him. And I said, you know what, guy. I'm going as a missionary to Ecuador. And he said, you are really nuts.

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In three months, my family and I are going to move to Switzerland. My church has called me again. The church that sent me to War Relief has called me to move to Switzerland to be responsible for the work of the Church of the Nazarene in Europe, Central Europe, Central Asia, South Asia, the Middle East, Northern Africa, the 1040 window. And by now, people know that

we are nuts. They don't ask me the question anymore. Well, this is radical. And as I was looking at this, I was trying to... my computer died on me, I think. I think this probably needs to be plugged in, run out of juice. But that's okay. I don't need never mind. But I know what I was going to talk to you about.

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In any case, you probably are not going to be able to take notes when this happens. And we talk to people and ask them, and they ask us, why are you doing this? By now they don't ask us the question anymore because I was trying to figure that out. And the only way that I figured it out was trying to understand one of my coworkers. His name is Brandon Pustejovsky. Brandon Pustejovsky is 30 years old. He is from that foreign nation of Texas. He went to school at Baylor University, got his degree in International Studies. And then for some reason, he decided that he wanted to study in intercultural studies, specializing in the Middle East. A bright young man, Brandon went to the East Coast, and he got a scholarship at Yale University.

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A very sharp Ivy League guy. Brandon went, and the first thing that crossed his mind was, I want to go study Middle Eastern studies because I want to work for the Foreign Service. I want to be a diplomat. That was his path. And as a diplomat, I'm going to be very famous. That was Brandon's plan. One day when he was about to finish his program from this Ivy League school, Brandon was surfing the web, was looking for an opportunity for an internship, like many of you are doing for an internship, to go and work close to Washington, D. C. To do something that

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could expose him to diplomacy and to Foreign Service. And he found this obscure organization called World Relief.

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What is this? So, he went to World Relief, and there was an opening, just one opening. We don't have many. And it said, short term assignment in Afghanistan. Afghanistan, Middle East. Pretty close. I'm going to apply. He applied. And 27, 28-year-old Brandon applied. He joined us. And when we interviewed him, I asked Brandon, and what are your aspirations? And he said, I just want to gain experience because I want to be a diplomat. I want to be a Rhodes scholar. I had my degree at Baylor University. I have these master's in international relations with emphasis in Middle Eastern studies. The next step is going to be to work closely to the foreign affairs of the United States.

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Okay, wanna give you a chance. He was very honest. He didn't tell us; you know what I have been called. And no, he didn't give us the traditional number. He was very honest. He said, this is my plan. Brandon signed up yesterday. I got an email from Brandon Pustejovsky. He is the country director for Mission East, a partner of World Relief. A Danish partner of World Relief working in Iraq, rebuilding homes and planting churches in the Duhok, Iraq.

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Now, what happened to Brandon as he was working in Afghanistan? The Lord spoke to him and said, you know what, Brandon? Baylor, Yale, World Relief. I'm using them because I'm calling



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you to be a radical for Christ. His plans have changed. Brandon now wants to study Arabic and wants to stay there. We have told him several times. His mum called me from Texas in January when a bomb went off in Kirkuk.

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He had been in Kirkuk a couple of hours before and flew back to Duhok. And his mom was calling me and saying, Gustavo, have you heard from Brandon? And I said, no, we haven't. We called his cell phone, the satellite phone. We called every phone we could, and we didn't reach Brandon. But he's okay. We said, Brandon, come back. We cannot risk you there, man. You are just 30, celebrating your 30th birthday there. And come on, come. Your family needs you. Your country needs you. And his reply was ha! You want me to leave the people here, they are in worse shape than you can ever imagine. Christians here are persecuted. They are homeless. My Lord wants me here, Gustavo, if you want, fire me. I don't work for you anymore anyway. I work for Missionist.

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And yeah, I played the tough managers role. And I said, Brandon, you know what? You've got to take this and this and this precaution, and you got to do this. And I went to my handbook and all of this, but as soon as I hit the send on my email, I just went, yehee! This guy is my hero. I don't care what you think. That guy Brandon is cool. You know why? Because he is a radical for Jesus. I'm trying to understand why am I doing what I'm doing? And I'm trying to understand why Brandon is building homes for the internally displaced people, the victims of the regime of

Saddam Hussein. I'm trying to understand why is the guy walking in the streets of Duhok, Iraq, now? And please don't mention where he's at. I already did, anyway.

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Why is he walking on the streets of Iraq? Just because he loves the Master and one day he told him, give freely because you have received freely. When I'm trying to understand my life and Brandon's life, I can only get it when I open my Bible on Mark, chapter two, verse one. That's good when you memorize your Bible in case technology fails. The Bible says in Mark, chapter two, verse one, that Jesus came to Capernaum, and the Word spread out that he was home. And so many have gathered so many had gathered in the house that there was no room, not even standing. And some men, four young men, came carrying to him a crippled man, a paralytic that they couldn't get them to Jesus because of the crowd. So, they opened a hole on the roof of the house where Jesus was and lowered the man from the roof down to the house.

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When Jesus saw their faith, he told the cripple man, son, your sins are forgiven. Father, make us radical for you. There is a crippled world out there. Help us see it through your eyes. In your name we pray. Amen. I pause so that you take your three second nap. Okay? Now pay attention. Listen to this scene because this is very important. It's a very important biblical scene. The first thing that we need to understand the very first thing that we need to understand is that there is a requirement for righteous missions. The scripture starts by saying, and people realize that he was home. Now, some of us read this, and we think that it's just an editorial comment. Nothing in the Bible has been written just for the sake of it.

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This important line says that people realize that he was home. Very important. If you are going to engage in the Great Commission, if you are going to bring the whole gospel to the whole person in the whole world, you must first understand that Jesus is home. That's the first requirement. So let me ask you a question because I happen to be an evangelist. Every once in a while, can you affirm that Jesus is home today? Is he okay? By now I realize that I'm in California, not in Brazil. Because in Brazil, if I would have asked the question, do you realize that Jesus is home? My karaoke friends from Rio de Janeiro would say amen.

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And here you are just saying, yeah, cool. You're cool. So let me ask you the question, and you answer in a very good Southern California way. Okay, chill. Have you realized that Jesus is home? There are some Brazilians there. Hey, cool, guys, we want you for the soccer game tomorrow. Those Brazilians, because they born, when they are born, they're born with a soccer ball on their feet. Yes, Jesus is home. First requirement. Don't forget this. You know why I'm emphasizing this? Because you cannot offer something that you don't have. The prerequiring of righteous missions is that you must understand that Jesus is home. One of the reasons why we are not sharing Jesus to others is because we are not sure that we have Jesus with us.

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Let me say this again. One of the reasons why we don't share Jesus to others is because we are not sure if that Jesus is home. That's a requirement. If your jar of water is empty, you cannot give

water to a thirsty person. You can't pretend, you can fake it. But if the jar is empty, all you can give to the person is air. So, the realization came to the people that Jesus was home. Now, the second part says that so many gathered around Jesus because you know what. The person of Jesus is cool. The person of Jesus is awesome. I was in awe when we were worshiping. Were you? I mean, it was cool. I really dislike sitting on the front row. Seriously, I don't. I'm a good evangelical. I start filling up from the back. You know how it is.

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And the reason I do that is because I really love to see the hands of those worshiping. So, I had to turn and look because we were really praising the name of the Lord. When the Lord is around, you change. When Jesus is home, things change. If Jesus is home, you cannot be unrighteous, period. Because if Jesus is in you, things around you change. So, Jesus was home. Now, let's examine the crowd for a second, because that's also important in missions. We're going to do a quick analysis of what the Europeans call ecclesiology. It took me a while to learn how to pronounce it. Let's do a quick analysis of ecclesiology or our churches, how our churches look like when we go to church, we're going to find a crowd. Jesus is always home.

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The Bible says that the house was full, and he preached to them. Now, what kind of people do we find in a crowd like this? Here's an X-ray and I'm going to talk to you because I still remember when I was a college student. In fact, my family tell me that I'm a school junkie. I told them that I wanted to go to my next postdoctoral degree. They think I'm nuts. I love this school thing. You may not, but I do. So, I'm sitting where you're at. Let me tell you the different

behaviors that we find in a crowd like this. First of all, we find those who are here because you were told so.

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You were told so. If you look at me, if you look at me closely, you're going to see that I have one ear lobe that is bigger than the other. You know why? Because the first ten years of my life, I refused to go to church. And my dad worked with this ear. I said I'm not going. He said, oh, yes, you are. I said no, I'm not going. Oh, yes, you are. And so, he worked on this one, and I went to church. I went to church because I had to. I did Christian stuff because I had to. And many of us here in this room are here because we had to. Some of us are here or are in the mission field because that's the tradition. It runs in the blood. My mom was a Christian, my dad was a Christian. My grandpa was a Christian. My great grandpa was a Christian. My great great grandpa came on the Mayflower as a Christian. I got to be a Christian. Shame on me if I'm not a Christian. So, when you sign in your card and they ask you, are you a Christian? You say, yes.

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Do you live like a Christian? You didn't ask the question. You asked me about my religion. Leave me alone. Some of them were packing the place because that was the thing to do. They were told to go or that was the thing to do. Others showed up because that was the place to show up. Your fashion. I mean, come on. You went to Macy's, and you bought this beautiful tie. Guys are also full of themselves, believe me. You bought this beautiful tie and you got to show it. You got to show it off. And so, you go to where is a place that you have a captive audience that you can walk in front of them and show? Your tie, church, of course.

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So, a lot of them went because that was the place just to socialize. Some of them went there because they were worshipping the king of kings in spirit and in truth. Now, I don't know. Really, I don't know. And honestly, I don't care why you're here. It makes me feel good that you are here because after I spoke yesterday, if 1/10th of you would have been here, I would have been really happy.

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In fact, I to speak after, I like to follow a speaker because after last time, I followed a speaker, he was so bad that people started leaving at the middle of my speech. That's what I thought he was so bad. Or was that me? That probably was me. But the fact that you're here really excites me. You know why? Because it doesn't matter what your reason for being here is. The Bible says that it was packed, and he preached to them. I have news for you, friends. Regardless of your reason for being here, tradition, you were told so, gives you a credit. I check you out. Gives you one credit or half a credit, or because it's the culture, or because this is a place to show off your fashion, or because you came to worship Him and spirit Him in truth.

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I have news for you. He's always, always going to be open to ministering to you. Okay? Now that's the introduction of my presentation. That happens when your Latino preacher loses his PowerPoint. Okay? Because now we're going to start with the real deal. The Bible says that they couldn't bring a cripple man to Jesus because of the crowd. I don't have any problem with those

in the Christian constituency who are there because of tradition because they are told so, because that's the social place, especially for those who are praising heaven in spirit and in truth.

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I do have a problem with those who are there as stumbling blocks. It says that they could not bring the crippled men to Jesus because of the crowd. Because of the crowd. What an indictment. Do you guys know that evangelicals, that Christians are responsible for many people not coming to Christ? That's a shame. That's a shame because many of us Christians are so full of ourselves and so proud of ourselves that we feel that we are holier than thou. And therefore, therefore we don't speak to the Samaritans, therefore we don't go to the hood. Therefore, we don't work in the inner city. Therefore, we don't talk to our neighbors. Therefore, we don't go overseas because we feel that we are better than anybody else because of the crowd. God help us Christians if we get in the way between the crippled world and Jesus.

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Now let me talk to you about the crippled world. The crippled world is all over the place. The crippled world starts in your household. Some of you have people who are so crippled in your household that they cannot come to Jesus unless you do something. The crippled world is across the street. Some of your neighbors are so unchurched that they don't even know how to spell the name of Jesus. The crippled world is in inner city LA is in inner city San Francisco where men and women and children are dying, are caught up in lives of drugs and prostitution and promiscuity or poverty or welfare.

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Regardless, that crippled world is out there, and they are not going to come to Jesus unless somebody does something radical to bring him to Jesus. The crippled world is in Africa, where entire countries are dying of AIDS. The crippled world is in Asia, in India. A country of 1.2 billion people is a country that has 30 million gods. And if you go there and stay long enough, you may be lucky enough to be appointed the newest god in town. That's how crippled the world is. The crippled world is that like our Kurdish friends in Duhok, where we have this pastor who has been kicked out of his family, threatened to be killed, his wife left him, his children don't acknowledge him, his parents kicked him out of the village for one single reason. He decided to follow Jesus.

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The crippled world is like the world of Southeast Asia, where children as young as 12 and 13 years of age are being stolen from their villages and brought into Bangkok, or to Phnom Penh or to the major cities in Southeast Asia and made child prostitutes. Those who use them and those who abuse them are so crippled, are so crooked. That's how crippled this world is, friends. And the reason the figure in the Bible talks about a crippled person is that this man could not come to Jesus on his own. He couldn't. Believe me, he couldn't. That's the figure, that's the literally figure in the Bible. Those who are crippled, those who are paralytic, they will never come to Jesus on their own. Never. That's why there is a need for radical duties. The Bible doesn't talk about a majority. It doesn't say that when they saw the crippled man standing behind them, they just opened a way so that he could be taken to Jesus.



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The Bible says that he could not see Jesus because of the crowd. The crowd was so busy taking care of themselves. The crowd was so busy self-grad congratulating themselves. The crowd was so busy building new [inaudible 00:34:43] churches. The crowd was so busy changing the carpet in their church. The crowd was so busy buying the newest equipment, the crowd was so busy looking towards the inside that they forgot that outside there was a cripple man who had to see Jesus. And here's where it gets exciting.

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These four guys stood outside. Yeah, Jesus was there. They knew the man. They said, wow, this guy is really cool. I mean, Jesus is here. This is the chance, man. This man needs Jesus. This world needs Jesus. He's so poor that he needs Jesus. It's so sick that he needs Jesus. He's so much in drugs that he needs Jesus. He's getting into homosexuality. He needs Jesus. This world needs Jesus. What do we do, guys? Well, can we go and have a meeting? Can we vote? Can we ask the people here to vote? Maybe they can be nice and decide to open an opportunity for this man to see Jesus. No, not really. Can we go person by person? Excuse me, could you move over? I mean this man needs Jesus. And then person by person would have started saying, oh, come on, I'm here. I was here since 5 o'clock. Don't you see it?

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And then, okay, sorry, could you please move on? I have here a man who really needs to see Jesus. Do you mind? They had a sense of urgency. These guys really had a sense of urgency. They saw that the window was very small. They knew that this crippled world had to see Jesus.

They decided to challenge the status quo. I love this. Probably because all my life I have been sort of a strange animal. Yeah, they tell me that this is the highway. I take the back road. That's me. That's what I like, these four guys. I really like these four guys. A minority, not the majority, a minority of four. They decided, you know what, guys. We're going to do something radical. And they decided to go bungee jumping for Jesus. That's radical. They decided to organize their extreme missions. I mean, that's radical. They decided to do something that could get them in trouble, and what did they do? They open a hole on the roof.

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I don't know about you guys, but if somebody, especially now that we're selling our home, if somebody comes, what we're having, even if we're having prayer meeting, we're having prayer meeting and we're praising the name of Jesus, and then suddenly somebody opens the hole in the roof because they want to join small group. I think they're being in trouble with me. I think so. And if somebody does that to you and you, I think they'll be in trouble with you. That's how radical these guys were. They decided to do something radical for Jesus Christ.

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Now, what they did was not popular. I want you to know I want you to know that when you engage in righteous restoration of the kingdom of heaven, that is not popular. It's not. Sometimes you have to dig new holes. Sometimes you have to challenge the status quo. Sometimes you have to develop new systems. Sometimes you have to challenge even those who you admire. Sometimes you have to challenge things that you have always learned. These four young men

learned that when they were growing up. Mom told them, you don't go to somebody's home and break a window, okay? Okay, mom.

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Now, remember, you don't go to somebody's home and open holes on roofs, okay? Okay, mom. They learned, but they had a sense of urgency. They had such a sense of urgency because they saw this man dying, poor, crippled, and there was only one, and only one that could get him out of that situation. Who was that? Are you awake? It was Jesus. Here's the deal, guys. It's the same one who got you out of your spiritual ghetto, it's the same one who got your out of your spiritual mess, it's the same one who could get you out of your spiritual mess. Is the same one who takes people out of poverty. It's the same one who said, I have come to give you life and abundantly so. It's the same one who is concerned about children dying of malnutrition. It's the same one who is concerned about more than 2 billion people who are making less than \$1 a day today. It's the same who was preaching to them regardless of the reason for being there.

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And these guys were so on fire for Jesus that they decided to do something radical now, but that's not the exciting part of it. There is even something even more exciting. The Bible says that when he saw their faith, he told the guy, look at this equation. That's a very important equation. When he saw their faith, he told the guy, son, your sins are forgiven. Wait a second, wait a second. That's a mess. That's mis-written. First of all, I have learned that it is my faith, the one who is going to get me to receive salvation. That's the first problem. And the second problem, you are telling me that the man was crippled, he was hurting, he needed physical help, he needed to

walk, he needed healing, and Jesus gave him salvation. Hmm you are screwing up my theology, sir.

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Well, don't blame it on me. I'm just telling you what the Bible tells me. The Bible tells me that when Jesus saw their faith, he told the man, that's cool. It is cool because you know what, guys? Because of your faith because of your faith, the world may be saved. Isn't that cool that you have the opportunity that because of your faith, somebody's going to get to know the Lord? There's a beautiful picture in my home. I have a special heart for Southern Cal, not because I'm here. My wife grew up in Southern Cal. She grew up in Pasadena. So that counts, I guess.

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Secondly, my in laws were ministers here in East LA. But if that was not enough, when I was leaving Guatemala and I was working as an architect, building homes and all of these, I became good friends with a missionary in my country. The guy was really old. He was in his last term, he was 64. And we became very good friends. He became so enamored with what we were doing with the Indians that he decided to leave his office, his missionary compound and come and move to my office building.

[00:42:35.040]

And so here we're talking with the American missionary and the young architect. Every time we talk to him, I didn't understand half he said, because his accent was so horrible, just like you don't understand half with what I'm saying. That's how it was. So, we were talking with the

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American missionary and all of this. One day, I came to my dad and I, because the American missionary was living in Guatemala. He had served there for 35 years. And I came to my mom and dad, and I said, mom, dad, do you by any chance know Stanley Story? And my mom said, oh, yeah, honey, remember? And my dad said, who? Stanley Story? Oh, El gringo. Yeah, El gringo.

[00:43:16.270]

So, my dad went to his photo album, which in my culture means a shoe box full of pictures. You have one too, so don't laugh. You have a box with a bunch of pictures at home. So, he went and found out in his photo album this used to be black and white. Now was a yellow and brown picture of the missionary, El Gringo, and his wife. They were baptizing my parents. And my mom had in her arms, she had this young little kid wearing glasses, looking at the camera. Yes, it was Gustavo. Now listen to this for a moment.

[00:43:56.930]

This radical dude from Southern Cal who now is in retirement in Paso Robles, he decided to leave the comfort fresh out of Pasadena College. And instead of just doing what he had studied to be a publicist, he decided to go to the Buddhist of Guatemala. And there, probably being affected by malaria or whatever, he went to the boonies and there somehow, he got to baptize my parents. And I'm in the photo. He called me two weeks ago, when the announcement of my election to be the regional director for the church in Eurasia was made. He said, I could not believe it. I went to your country and spent 35 years of my life in your nation. I baptize your

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parents. You were in the photo. We gave the photo to the guy. You were in the photo, man. I spent my life in your country and now you are going to spend your life for 90 countries.

[00:45:09.230]

How about that for multiplication, guys? That's pretty cool. That's a good investment. A radical dude decided to open a hole in his career to challenge what people think is the norm and went to the boonies.

[00:45:28.280]

That's what I am committed because of their faith, because of Stanley's faith. I survived because I would have been the casualty of under five deaths. See, in my culture, in many of the Indian communities and we are not from the Mayan culture, but in those who surrounded our town, the villages. A lot of people don't name their kids until they are two or three years old. You know why? They don't want to waste the name. Because they don't know if the kid is going to make it beyond three years of age. So, they name their kids until they are four or five.

[00:46:14.850]

I was going to die when I was two months old. The doctor told my mom, oh, you have too many. You have seven already. Eight. He's the youngest. You run out of hope with this kid, so just leave him in the hospital dying. My mom went to the church that had been planted by this radical missionary. Took this dying two-month-old kid and put him on the altar and said, lord, you gave him to me. Now is your business and I'm here because some radical couple from Southern Cal

went to Guatemala and decided to challenge everything that they had learned so that others could have life.

[00:46:55.660]

The least I could do, guys, is two things. One is to tell you thank you. But two, that's not enough. It's to challenge you to go because of your faith, the world will be saved. Because of your faith, less children will die. Because of your faith, the promise of Isaiah 65 will happen here. I see new heavens and new earth, and people will no longer die young. And they will build houses and dwell in them, and they will plant trees and eat the fruit of their trees. And the lion and the lamb will live together because of your faith.

[00:47:47.710]

Now, I don't know about you guys, but some of us have had to dig holes. Some of you today, the Lord may be talking to you and saying, you know what? I want you to dig a hole in your plan. I know you have read [inaudible 00:48:06] books and it tells you to write your goals, and it tells you that to write your path in life. So, did I. And yes, you know everything from the Franklin Planner's books. Yes, I know you have a plan. But I'll tell you what, today the Lord may be telling you. I'm calling you to be one of the four, one of the four radical dudes who is going to go and dig holes.

[00:48:35.350]

Here's the difference, guys. September 11, 2001, 19 wacko's, radical people opened two holes in two towers of America, but they did it to bring death to this nation. These four guys open a hole

on the roof. The biggest difference is that they open a hole in the roof to bring eternal life to people. That's the difference. And if that doesn't get you excited, I don't know what does. The Lord calls you to be radical for him. The Lord calls you to bring about eternal life to others. You may need to dig a hole in your pocket. There are several programs out there that educate you to change your priorities. Compassion International. There is a booth there that you could sponsor a child. World Relief has a sponsorship program, the Heart program. Go to the booth, sign up.

[00:49:43.490]

You may need today to dig a hole in your budget. Yes, I know you're broke. I've been there. I know how it is to be a student. You know the favorite word of a student is I'm broke. I know. But you are never too broke to give. You may be challenged today to go to the mission field and maybe your career. You thought you were going to be a lawyer. You thought you were going to be a doctor. You thought you were going to be a financial analyst. You thought you were going to be an architect. So, did I. You may have never dreamed about becoming a minister.

[00:50:26.030]

I got to tell you that when my wife and I were dating. She was so happy because she said, I'm PK, I promise. I swore never to even date somebody who wants to be a minister. I'm so glad you're going to be an architect because I do not want to marry a pastor. Neither did I, but we had to dig a hole on the roof, friends. You may be asked to sign today, to sign the rest of your life to go and work in the inner city of your state or your town. You may be asked today to go and sign up for the rest of your life, to go teach children about literacy or women, or to work at a hospital or to work in a community development environment.



[00:51:21.890]

Yes, you may have the most wonderful plan, but you know what? Once the Lord talks to you, if you say no, you're going to feel pure awful. So at least give it a chance, would you? Because of your faith, the world is going to be saved. Because of your faith, righteousness will come. When I say, I said, and he will bring forth justice to the nations, how do you think he's going to bring forth justice to the nations? Do you think that he's going to come in his white horse and he's going to rapidly destroy all unrighteousness in this world? No. He is counting on you. You are the ones that he's going to use to bring forth justice to the nation.

[00:52:16.230]

And then the beauty of this is that the guy was sick, and he got salvation. Sometimes you have to preach to them, and you got to feed them. There's no difference in Christ's gospel between what we do first because we got to seek first the kingdom of God and his justice. And the rest of it, your degree, your career, your plans, all of this will be added onto you. Let me close to making it very personal.

[00:52:55.100]

I have a personal ministry with people your age. I firmly believe that in today's society, Christians have failed to minister to people your age. There is ministry for the youth, there is children's ministries, and then we jump to ministry to adults. And seriously, at this point in your life, this is one of the toughest stages in life. I've been there and I was messed up. So are many of you. You know why? Because you are asking three basic questions. I said this to my staff

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because I have a lot, a lot of young people in my staff at World Relief, people like Brandon, people like Michael Mulford, like JJ Ivaska, guys who are 23, 24, 29, 30.

[00:53:42.850]

They all are asking the same question. Question number one: God, what do you want me to do with my life? Well, if he tells you to be one of the radical ones, you better say yes. Second question many of you are asking is, Lord, do you want me to do this something with my life solo or with somebody else. Yeah, you're struggling with that question too. This was not a counseling session, but I had to tell you this. You struggle with that question, lord, am I supposed to be one of the radical dudes opening holes on the roof by myself or with my companion? And the third question you're asking is, Lord, if I want to do with somebody, could you tell me who that person is?

[00:54:39.450]

I was interviewing a missionary candidate who is going to my mission field to Romania. She's 29 years old. Jessica. She's going to work in compassion and ministries in Romania. And as I was interviewing her two weeks ago, I asked her the question. She's single. And I said, Jessica, have you addressed these three questions? What does the Lord want to do with your life? Are you going to do it by yourself? And if you're going to do it with somebody else, with whom? And she said, I have. He has told me not to worry about the second and the third question. He has told me that I have to seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and question number two and number three will be added onto me.

[00:55:27.570]

So, here's the deal. I know that you are pretty much concerned about questions number two and number three, but today I want to challenge you to address question number one. Is the Lord calling you today to challenge to open holes in the roof of your life so that righteousness could come forth? If he's doing so, praise his name. Now, since I have time left and I'm used to evangelistic campaigns and all of this, I got to pray with you guys. Is that okay? We pray. Okay, so why don't we pray? And here's the deal. There are different people in this audience, and I would like to take advantage of this prayer, okay?

[00:56:15.410]

This is really between you and the Lord. We don't have an altar. I don't know if the band is here, but if they're not, that's okay. You don't want me to sing, believe me, but it's between you and the Lord. But here's the deal. Some of you still may not know that Jesus is home. Okay? Today's your day. Today's your day. He's cool. My life has improved significantly ever since I decided to make my heart Jesus' home. So, if you want to pray, this is the time for us to pray and ask Jesus to come home. Because, believe me, you may be called today to be a missionary, and you still may not be a Christian.

[00:57:00.960]

That's okay. That's okay. That means that today you're going to go to first and second base at once, and the Lord is going to hit a home run. Some of you may need to pray today and ask this question, lord, what do you want me to do with my life? Some of you need to pray today for the

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crippled world, a world that is crowded with injustice. With poverty, with disease, with persecution, with sin.

[00:57:44.490]

Maybe you're called today to be the intercessor on behalf of this world. And some of you may be praying this afternoon, signing a contract with the master. By the way, he's the best boss I've ever had. You may be asked this afternoon to sign a contract with him. Say, you know what, Lord? I want to serve you. No matter where, no matter how, that's your business. I want to serve you. Will you tell Him that? And some of you may have already answered question number one. So, this is your opportunity to ask the Lord to answer question number two, number three. But don't cheat on me. Ask question first. Question number one first. And then you could ask question number two and number three.

[00:58:33.020]

Let's pray. Father, we thank you. We really thank you because you have called all of us, all of us, all of us, you have called us to serve you, whether from our profession, whether from our careers as nurses or accountants or communicators. No matter what, you have asked us to serve you. But there are many here today, many, many here today who are struggling with the question what shall I do with my life, Father? As they are asking you today as they are asking you today, remind them to seek first your kingdom and your justice and the rest will be added upon their lives.

[00:59:31.950]

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Help him rest on your hand. Lead them, Father. I'm so thankful because you are the one who calls. And when you call, you train. And when you train, you equip. And when you equip, everything is cool. We thank You, Jesus. We thank you, Jesus. Because things have not changed in the 2000 years you are still calling us to open holes on the roof. Bless the individuals, the couples, the families of missionaries who will come out of this audience today. Bless their careers, bless their lives. Bless their families, the families that you have already prepared for them.

[01:00:34.730]

Bless the fields where they're going to serve. Prepare the fields where they're going to serve. Give them a double portion of your spirit. Help us glorify your name. Thank you, Jesus, because you're the best friend, in your name I pray amen. Thank you. God bless you.