

Sermon Series FREE: Week Six
“FREE* To Risk It All”

Pastor Dale Campfield – Eastgate Community Church
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Intro:

Matt 28:19 *“Go and make disciples of all nations...”*

ECC Process of Discipleship: Making an IMPACT...To Love...To Grow...To Serve

We have 3 priorities – To love...which is expressed in our Sunday morning celebration and connection groups. To grow...which is expressed in our Path to Discipleship. To serve...which is expressed in our daily lives in the places we live, work and play; as well as through the local church. The vision of E.C.C. is to gather together weekly for corporate worship, loving God and each other; then to come together in small Connection Groups for discipleship and fellowship, and are regularly involved in reaching out to others with the love, acceptance, and forgiveness of Jesus Christ through community outreach. To Love...To Grow...To Serve!

This sermon series is different in the respects that we are joining with close to 90 churches in the Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky area to all teach on the same theme of being FREE! Every church will teach their own thing, but we'll all been on the same theme throughout the past five weeks. Today is the last day.

2 Corinthians 3:17

“Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom.”

Ps 119:45

“I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your truth.”

This 6th week of the Free Journey is called:

“FREE* To Risk It All”

If you want to make an IMPACT in life, you must be able to walk FREE to be able to Risk Everything – Risk it All. True Freedom comes when we are the point in our life when we can Risk It All for the Kingdom of God. God gave me this message while in Africa listening to a teaching by Dr. Badu Bediako. Dr. Badu was speaking on “Pastoral Care” while God spoke this to my heart. Through his speaking, there was like a “portal of heaven” that was opened up over us and God downloaded this message into my heart.

Free to Risk it All

Illus: “I’m all in” card game.

Have you ever played the card game when they say, “I’m all in.”? Well, the game of life is much like that. There are certain times during our lives that we need to say, “I’m all in.”

Question: Are you freely willing to Risk it All for the sake of the Kingdom of God?

Question: How many more sermons do you need to hear before you begin to take risks for the Kingdom of God?

Let me give you some examples of those throughout history that risked it all...

- **The Disciples**

Matthew 4

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him. James and John... Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Luke 9:59-62

He said to another man, "Follow me." But the man replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God." Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

They gave up everything to follow Christ.

- **Stephen**

He spoke the truth in the midst of being stoned. He didn't hold back. He risked it all.

Acts 6

Stephen, a man full of God's faith and power, did greater wonders and miraculous signs among the people but opposition rose against him. But they could not stand up against his wisdom or the spirit by which he spoke.

- **David**

1 Samuel 17

He went before Goliath without the conventional armor man would wear. He took a chance and risked his life in doing it.

- **Daniel**

Daniel made the decision, even after he was told that if he prayed to God he would be put into a lions den, to go ahead and pray anyway.

Daniel 6

“Daniel learned of the decree...Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, even as he did before...”

- **Esther**

Esther was an orphan who became queen of Persia. Mordecai raised her and helped her to become queen. She was placed in her position by the Lord to be the solution to the problem created by Haman. She needed to risk her life to save the annihilation of the Jewish people by Haman’s evil plan.

a. Esther 4:14 “For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father’s family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?”

b. This was risky business but listen to her response: Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai:

Esther 4:16

“Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.”

- **Small boy with a sack lunch.**

Mark 6

He had 5 loaves and 2 fish. Fed 5,000 people with it. Mom probably packed that lunch. Would was scarce that day. I’m sure he could have ate it himself. He probably thought it mom would be all over him if he gave it way too? He risked it all. Everyone knows of Jesus and the miracle, but what the boy? He took the risk by giving up his sack lunch!

- **Pastor Paulo – Indonesia**

Once in the religion of Islam, he turned to Christ. His family disowned him. His father nailed his foot, though his shoe to the floor of the house. Being nailed there, his family came by and struck him physically. He risked it all.

- **Pastor Smart in Africa**

His church in the middle of a Islamic area of Ghana. He started a church there. The Islamic people would throw rocks at them during the service and shake sticks and knives at them when coming in and out of the church. They took the risk. Now, because of their risk, the Islamic people are starting to come to church and finding Jesus Christ!

- **Jesus**

He took the biggest risk of all. Some think it was easy for Jesus to go to the cross because He's God. Yes, He's God, but on this earth He was a man too! He was God incarnate in the flesh. He felt everything we feel. We dealt with every pain we deal with. He risked it all.

Luke 22:42

“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.”

TAKE NOTE:

There is one thing all of these people had in common. It is the word that will bring us true FREEDOM to make an IMPACT for the Kingdom of God and allow you to walk FREE in this life.

OBEDIENCE

That one word is obedience. It is through obedience that we are FREE! It is through obedience that God can use us. It is through obedience that we can truly be satisfied in our lives. Obedience is the key. With obedience comes the blessings. Without it, comes trouble!

1. **It's not an option.** The opposite of obedience is “sin”.
2. **It's not always fun.** Just look at the examples we just gave.
3. **It's not always sensible.** It may make no senses in the natural to take the risk.
4. **It's always worth it!** Guaranteed. Obedience is better than sacrifice. Blessings come through obedience.

Take Note: Obedience is not a one time event – it must be a lifestyle!

Conclusion:

Numbers 32:6

“And Moses said to the children of Gad and to the children of Reuben, “Shall your brethren go to war while you sit here and do nothing?”

It’s the same for us. Shall the rest of the Christians before us who sacrificed everything took the risks they did so we can worship in freedom today be the only ones who will have fought the battle. Will we do nothing? If we do nothing, then the generations after us will pay the price of their freedom being taken from them. If we as parents do nothing, our kids will pay the price.

Take Note: “If we don’t do it, God will raise someone else up to do it. He’s going to get the work done with or without us.”

When you walk in OBEDIENCE you will be FREE*!

For some, the devil has stolen your freedom...take it back! God is Faithful and you will reap the harvest promised to you by God.

Faithful - following the message

“Faithful, faithful, faithful is our God (repeat)
I’m reaping the harvest God promised me
Take back what the devil stole from me
And I rejoice today, for I shall recover it all

Holy...
Jesus...

True Freedom comes through Obedience

And when you do...

You watch...you wait...you’ll see!