

Turn Your World Upside Down
Part 2 – “Impossible? No Way!”
Pastor Dale Campfield – Eastgate Community Church
May 9th, 2010 – Mother’s Day

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!

Today is Mother’s Day – the day that we honor the ladies in our church. We don’t just honor those who are moms but every lady. For ALL of them deserve to be honored.

Often times, we get ourselves into a rut, doing the same old thing over and over again. Our lives lose their IMPACT due to lazy attitudes and taking things for granted. To put it simply – we’re spoiled. It’s time to turn our life as we know it UPSIDE DOWN.

During this series we will look at how to turn our way of doing things UPSIDE DOWN to make an even greater IMPACT in an ever evolving culture. Doing life differently, thinking about life differently, and refining the way we’ve always dealt with our issues in new and innovative ways. How do we change the paradigm of the church in the way we think and act towards the different issues of life? How do we allow the Holy Spirit to turn our lives “UPSIDE DOWN” in order to make a greater IMPACT for the Kingdom of God?

Last week, we dealt with the question: “Why?”

Question #1: Why does our world need to be turned upside down?

Answer: Our world is hurting and needs Jesus.

Question #2: Why is it important that we allow Christ to turn our lives upside down first?

Answer: The church should be leading the world, not the world leading the church.

Question#3: How do we turn our lives upside down?

Answer: By having an encounter with Jesus Christ.

Without a personal encounter with Christ Jesus, we will never have a life that is changed and turned upside down, thus we'll never be able to turn the world in which each of us live in upside down. We must have this encounter – and not just once; but ongoing!

EXAMPLE: Someone in the Bible whose life was turned upside down...and because of it, many others lives were then turned upside down.

- **Saul of Tarsus**

Today, Part 2 – “Impossible? No Way!”

Sometimes it feels like the things that God asks us to do are impossible. We look at the world around us, the great needs, the great hurt, and wonder – how can we possibly make a difference? How can we possibly turn this situation Upside Down, making an IMPACT for the Kingdom of God?

At times, the journey looks impossible.

Take note of this text:

²³Then Jesus said to his disciples, "I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. ²⁴Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁵When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, "Who then can be saved?" ²⁶Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." ²⁷Peter answered him, "We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?" ²⁸Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother^[1] or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life. ³⁰But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.

Matthew 19:26

Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

When God calls you – it's possible!

When God speaks to you – it's possible!

When God is involved – it's possible!

No matter how big or small – it's possible!

There is nothing too big or small that God can't do – it's possible!

The word “impossible” should be stricken the vocabulary of the Christian language!

Song: Can He Could He Would He, Yes He Can He Could He Would and He Did

Check this out...

The 2010 Olympics have recently concluded in Canada. Athletes from all over the world had been preparing for that moment. Imagine all the time and effort and sacrifice that must go into getting ready to compete in the Olympics! And you know why these athletes have to prepare so hard – the level of competition is so high – the challenge is so great – you have to be completely prepared, physically and mentally, for the Olympics.

Imagine if this is how the Olympics worked – every Olympics, right before the opening ceremonies, the US Olympic committee would choose one person, out of the general population, and asks that person to participate in the Olympics with everybody else. Imagine if that was just part of the program – no matter how young or old you were, no matter how out of shape or unprepared you were – one person gets the call from the Olympic committee to join the team and compete with everybody else. Imagine if the night before the opening ceremony the phone rang, and you were told that the Olympic committee has randomly chosen you. That very day, you are supposed to fly over to Canada, put on your downhill skiing gear, and get ready to compete in the Giant Downhill Run, with all the other athletes of the world.

You'd be thinking – "Impossible!"

Would you go? Or would you say, "I can't go – I have to work." "I'm not in shape – I'd look foolish snow skiing, and can't ski anyway." "I can't just get up and leave – I have things going on here." "I'm too old." "Why don't you pick someone else who's more prepared?" Would you try to get out of it, if you were suddenly asked to compete in the Olympics? More than likely you would, because you don't feel prepared or worthy enough to compete with all of the other competitors. You more than likely do everything you can to say no.

Well, that's not how the Olympics works, but that is how God works. God picks people, regular, ordinary people like you and me, and he asks us to do great things. And it doesn't matter if you have to work, or if you're busy, or if you're too old or too young, or if you're not ready. There are times when God interrupts what you're doing and says to you, "I want you to do something great for me. I want you to turn your world Upside Down."

That's what happened to Mary, the mother of Jesus. On this Mother's Day, I thought it would be appropriate to look at one of the most famous mother's in history, the mother of Jesus and look how God used her to turn the entire world Upside Down. So, let's look at this woman and see what we can learn from her story.

TEXT: Luke 1:26-37

VIDEO

[Let's look at 4 Aspects of Mary's Journey in Turning the World Upside Down](#)

[Four Aspects of Mary's Journey](#)

Four Aspects of Mary's Journey

1. Mary was an ordinary person.

Mary. She was a regular, ordinary girl, probably in her middle teens, living in a small village. She was a peasant who believed in God – nothing special. And then, one day, God told her – you are the one that will be the mother of the Messiah. I have chosen you.

How Mary responded to this teaches us how we can respond, when God challenges us, when God turns our lives upside down and asks us to do great things for him.

I believe that God is looking for the ordinary people who in life, not the superstars. He's looking at the heart of a person, not the outside pomp and circumstances of a person's life.

2. Mary had to deal with the shock of being chosen.

I'm sure this was a big shock to Mary. She wasn't part of the upper class of society. She had no experience being a mother. Not to mention that she was a virgin! As well, this was inconvenient for her – she was engaged, and this would cause a great deal of stress between her and Joseph. Socially, this wouldn't look good – an unwed Jewish teenager who is pregnant. I'm sure Mary was wondering to herself, "Why me?"

What God did to Mary is similar to what God sometimes does to us. Sometimes, God interrupts your life and says to you, "You're the one I've chosen to do something big," and then you say to yourself, "Why me?" Maybe God does this to you in your personal life – he places a huge challenge in front of you – the challenge of taking care of an aging parent, or the challenge of loving difficult relatives, or the challenge of being the strong one in the family. And you're not ready for that challenge. But God says to you, "I've chosen you." God does this to churches too. He has placed a huge challenge in front of us to make an IMPACT in our own community. It's a challenge given to us by God. Maybe you say to yourself, "I'm not ready for this challenge." And God says, "But I've chosen you. You have no training. It's very inconvenient. I know you're not ready. But I've chosen you," God says.

3. Mary had no Mother of God training school to attend.

Now Mary didn't go to a special school that trained women on how to mother the Son of God. And Mary wasn't holy. She had sin, just like everybody else. The Bible portrays her as a regular, ordinary, peasant girl who believed that someday a Messiah would come and take away her sins. And then, God turns her life upside down, and tells her that nine months from now, she was going to be the mother of the Messiah.

I've seen it happen so many times, when a person receives a "call" from God, then they think they have to attend a certain Bible College or get a certain type of training before they start to do something to fulfill their call. Now don't get me wrong, I believe in training and being prepared; but we can't wait to begin to fulfill our call in life for the training. Sometimes, we have to just step out and start doing it.

Mary had no special training school to do what she was called to do. She had nine months to prepare herself to raise this baby. And for Pete sakes, it was not a normal pregnancy at all – for she was a virgin!

How did Mary respond?

4. Mary responded with humble faith and obedience.

We see her response in the words of her song, called the “Magnificat.” And as we read through this song, you can see three things. You can see, first of all, that Mary responds to God with humble faith. Mary believed that God would do this great thing through her: “From now on, all generations will call me blessed,” Mary said. Mary believed that she would be the mother of the Messiah, even though it seemed unbelievable to her. And Mary responded to all of this not just with humble faith, but also with humble obedience. As you read through her song, you can tell that Mary wasn’t resisting. Instead, she calls herself God’s “servant”. Mary was going to obey, and walk the road that God had placed in front of her. And as she thought about this, Mary also responded with joy. She says “My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.” She was happy that God had chosen her, a small and insignificant person, to do such a great thing.

TEXT: Luke 1: 46-55

I wish I would respond to God’s challenges like Mary. When God turns your life upside down, and asks you to do great things for him, how do you respond? With humble faith? Or do you say to God, “God, I don’t think you know what you’re doing. You’re wrong God, you’re wrong!” When God turns your life upside down, do you respond with humble obedience? Or do you say, “No God, I don’t think so. I’m not going to cooperate with you.” When God turns your life upside down, do you respond with joy, like Mary? Or do you complain and grumble? When we look at Mary’s life, and how Mary responded when God turned her life upside down, we are humbled, because we realize that we sin. We doubt and resist and complain.

But our God is a God who loves sinners. He came to Mary, not because she was so perfect, but purely out of his grace and mercy. And that same God comes to us. Mary called God her “Savior,” and he is your Savior too. God did great things for Mary, and God also does great things for you. Instead of condemning you for your sins, God sends his Son, who takes your sins away. Instead of condemning you, God has mercy on you, and forgives you, just as he had mercy on Mary.

Conclusion:

One of the events that interests me in the Summer Olympic games is the decathlon. Each athlete in the decathlon has to compete in ten events, from shot put to high jump to javelin throwing to hurdles, to sprints, to long jump – ten different events. Imagine that - you have to excel at all those different events, in order to win the gold medal. When Jesus was here, he had to excel in all different kinds of events, in order to win for us our salvation. Just think about that – he had to fulfill all the Messianic prophecies from the Old Testament, perfectly. He had to keep God’s Ten Commandments, perfectly. He had to teach and train his disciples. He had to reach out to the unbelievers of first century Palestine. He had to endure all the sufferings of the cross, as a sacrifice for your sins. He had to rise from the dead. All these things Jesus had to do – it makes the decathlon seem so small, compared to what Jesus accomplished. And those are just some of the mighty deeds that God has done, that Mary sings about in her song. God has done great things for you.

And trusting in that God, that Messiah – that’s where Mary found the strength and courage she needed, to move forward, as the future mother of the Christ. Ultimately, what happened, was the God turned Mary into a person that she had never planned to be, someone that all generations would call “blessed.” And if you were to ask Mary if she would change anything, I’m sure she’d say no. God turned her life upside down. He asked this small peasant girl to do a big thing. But God also gave her faith, and strength to obey, and joy, as she carried out God’s plan.

Remember this, when God challenges you, when God turns your life upside down. God loves to ask small people to do big things. And when God does that to you, remember that he will also give you faith, and courage, and joy, as you carry out God’s plan in your life. Ultimately, God is working on you, turning you into a person that you had never planned to be. That’s how God works. May He bless you, just as he blessed that young, surprised, peasant girl Mary, many many years ago.

So get ready. The challenge is on... and you can do this!

You watch... you wait... you’ll see!

1 question for you as you go...

#1 – Will You or Won’t You?