

NOT SO INNOCENT BYSTANDER

Obadiah 1-14

-God hasn't called us to be bystanders, but to be impactful in this world. Love your neighbors. If you have beef with someone, squash it before it grows.

Luke 10:25-37

-Jesus gave us this example as a model for how we're supposed to love others. Would we help a stranger the same way the Samaritan did?

2 Peter 3:9

-God doesn't desire that any should perish. The harvest is plenteous, and there are millions of Christians, but the laborers are still few. We don't come to church just to check off a box. We want to connect with almighty God, hear and receive His Word, and to touch and be touched by His presence. Don't let it be just about you. What we do at church has to lead us rescuing the world from sin.

Ezekiel 36:26

-God, let our hearts not become numb to the things we see on TV or cold because of the trials we experience! We have to guard our hearts against that. Let our hearts stay soft so we can still hear the voice of God.

Boldness

We need the boldness of Jesus Christ. Boldness is the courage to act or speak fearlessly despite real or imagined danger. When a person acts boldly, he or she takes action regardless of the risk. We should be bold like Joshua, being "strong and courageous" (Joshua 1:9).

Boldness was one of the first characteristics the Holy Spirit imparted to His followers after Jesus's ascension. The disciples had been hiding in fear of persecution from the Jews after Jesus's crucifixion. The Holy Spirit came upon them and they became bold, courageous, fearless preachers.

Acts 4:23-31

After being threatened by the council, the believers prayed for boldness. We need soft hearts and we need boldness. God is calling us to be bold in our faith.

Proverbs 28:1; Romans 8:31

-The righteous are bold as a lion. Righteousness is through our faith, and then our actions match our faith.

-Sometimes we don't act because of fear. But if God is for us, who can be against us? God is on your side!

Daniel 3:8-30

-V18 The three Hebrew boys spoke boldly in the face of the powerful king under threat of their lives. How many of us can be this bold in this culture we live in?

-V27 The fire was so hot that the people who put them in were burned up, but the three Hebrew boys didn't even smell like smoke!

We want hearts of flesh. If you feel your heart getting cold, fast to disconnect from the influences hardening your heart. And we have to be bold, unafraid to be who God has called you to be. God is calling us to be Joshua's in this generation!