

FACING THE GIANTS STUDY SERIES



“Attempt the Impossible”

Clip No. 3 ... Study by Michael Catt



THE BIG QUESTION:

Are you willing to attempt the impossible?

SCENE:

Coach Grant Taylor challenges his football team before the big game not to fear, but to believe that God can accomplish the impossible if they will trust Him.

SCENE LENGTH:

1 minute, 20 seconds

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

Fear. Faith. Impossibility. Remembrance.

BACKGROUND INFO:

After trusting God and seeking to honor Him above themselves, the Shiloh Christian Academy Eagles have been winning football games. Now they prepare to take on the Giants, the best team in the state. Most observers feel the Eagles have an impossible task at hand.

KEY STUDY SCRIPTURES: Matthew 19:26; Philippians 4:13; Matthew 14:14-21

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What is a more common first reaction when someone faces an obstacle: making excuses or stepping out in faith? What tends to happen when *you* face an obstacle?
2. Why is it important for Coach Taylor and the Eagles to believe God for the impossible?
3. What enables Coach Taylor to attempt the impossible and challenge his team to do the same?
4. How does Coach Taylor instruct his team to face the Giants?
5. How do you face seemingly impossible situations in your life? Do you tend to see the opportunities ... or the obstacles? Why?

“Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.” And He said, “Come!” And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus. Matthew 14:28-29 (NASB)

TACKLING THE BIG QUESTION: So, what does it mean to attempt the impossible?

The life of a believer is not safe. God often uses unexpected people in unexpected circumstances during unexpected times to demonstrate His power. We may say we have faith in a God who is able to do the impossible, but if we aren't willing to take a risk and attempt the impossible, then our faith is shallow. Step out of the boat — it's much safer on the water with Jesus than in your little boat without Him.

FACING THE GIANTS

STUDY SERIES



TAKING IT FURTHER

“ATTEMPT THE IMPOSSIBLE”

FURTHER STUDY

By definition, the impossible truly is ... as far as us being able to do the impossible in our own strength. In Matthew 14, we read about Jesus feeding the five thousand. Yet before he begins His miracle, the disciples analyze the situation and advise Jesus:

“This place is desolate and the hour is already late; so send the crowds away, that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” (Matthew 14:15, NASB)

Where the disciples only saw the impossible, Jesus saw a way for the people to be fed that was seemingly impossible.

READ MATTHEW 14:13-33

All twelve of the disciples watched as Jesus fed more than 5,000 people with five loaves of bread and two fish. However, it is possible that only Peter learned the lesson: Attempt the impossible. Why can we deduce that only Peter was paying attention? Just a few verses later, the disciples find themselves in a fierce storm at sea, and Jesus walks toward them on the water. Peter said to Him:

“Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.” And He said, “Come!” And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus. (Matthew 14:28-29, NASB)

Peter is often criticized for sinking after he began walking on the water, but he was the only one willing to step out of the boat. The greatest failure is the failure to try. We don't try because we don't trust. Ron Dunn wrote, “If we are spiritually impoverished, it is not because the hand of grace is tight-fisted; it is because the hand of faith is too weak.”

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- Do you believe that God can do impossible things? What are some examples of where you have seen God do the impossible? (see Matthew 19:26)
- Do you believe God can do impossible things through your life? Why or why not? (see Luke 1:37)

UNDERSTANDING THE SIGNIFICANCE

God wants us to be desperate. As long as we think we can do things in our own strength, we will never be desperate for God. We will seek to do in the flesh what only He can do by His power and might.

He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up toward heaven, He blessed the food, and breaking the loaves He gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds, and they all ate and were satisfied. They picked up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve full baskets. (Matthew 14:19-20, NASB)

Every miracle of God begins with an impossible situation. The storms and setbacks of life are opportunities for us to trust God. God rewards those who diligently seek Him (see Hebrews 11:6). We cannot attempt the impossible in our own strength. However, when we seek the Lord in the midst of impossible circumstances, He reveals His power and presence by accomplishing the impossible through us. When you step out in His strength, the impossible can become “HIM-possible.”