

## "It's Not Mine!"



*“The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in*

***the Scriptures.”***  
***Acts 4:13 (NLT)***

I shook my head as the waitress set a dish of olive oil with balsamic vinegar on the table. The oil created such a thick barrier, how would my bread ever receive a dose of vinegar? I tried stirring it but to no avail. Some things just don't mix well.

Imagine a man boldly pushing his cause. Is he not likely to come across as self-interested and pride filled? Conversely, is not a timid man typically viewed as humble? Like oil and vinegar, boldness and humility don't mix so well.

*“As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.” Jesus Christ (John 20:21)*

How, then, do you both boldly and humbly advance the Mission Jesus has sent you out to complete while living behind enemy lines?

An emulsifier unites opposing forces. Mustard is often used to bind oil and vinegar, but what can bring your boldness and humility together? Coming across as both bold and ordinary, what was Peter and John's emulsifier?

***Reflect: What fears prevent me from being bold?***

The Lord made Ezekiel Israel's "Watchman," calling him to sound the alarm to warn the people of pending trouble.

*“If I announce that some wicked people are sure to die and you fail to tell them to change their ways, then they will die in their sins, and I will*

*hold you responsible for their deaths. But if you warn them to repent and they don't repent, they will die in their sins, but you will have saved yourself." The Lord (Ezekiel 33:8-9)*

He made it clear that he would hold Ezekiel responsible for issuing the warning... but not the results! The Lord gave him a key role, but clearly it was not Ezekiel's Mission to save the Israelites. Acting as the Watchman was simply his piece in the Lord's grand Mission. I envision the Lord encouraging, "Just do your part Ezekiel! I've got the rest covered."

Considering this, I reflected on the Mission Jesus gave me and it hit me – "It's not mine!" Likewise, advancing your Mission, though key, is simply a piece in the Lord's grand Mission. You're not responsible for the results. Consider the implications... why not risk being bold?

***Consider: The emulsifier enabling me to boldly and humbly advance my Mission is realizing "It's not mine!"***

Imagine the tragedy if Ezekiel, his fear undermining his boldness, just told the Israelites what they wanted to hear...

*"Obviously, I'm not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ's servant." The Apostle Paul (Galatians 1:10)*

Realizing that your Mission is not really yours frees you from seeking the approval of people. How much of your life is controlled by the fear of other's responses? Assess yourself. Do you fear offending others, or being seen a failure?

As he did with Paul, Jesus has given you a Mission to carry out. He's

the one you need to please. What will be your response when your master asks you (the servant) to do something? Jesus encourages, “Just do your part! I’ve got the rest covered.”

*Imagine: My bold obedience to Jesus’ request makes my innocence shine through.*

Jesus knows what following orders is like. He modeled it for us by boldly and obediently doing what the Father told him to do.

*So Jesus explained, “I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself. He does only what he sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does.” Jesus Christ (John 5:19)*

Just as Jesus was sent by the Father to do his part, Jesus is now sending you to do yours – to boldly and obediently do what he’s asked. When questioned, simply respond, “I’m just doing what Jesus has told me to do.” Can you feel the innocence, humility and freedom that forms with this attitude. It hit me once again...

### **"It's Not Mine!"**

Go off the grid and ask these questions:

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#### **Coach’s Questions**

- Ask, “Jesus, please reaffirm the Mission you have me here to advance.”
- How is my fear of pleasing others or looking good in the eyes of others keeping me from taking bold steps to advance my Mission?
- What bold steps will I take to advance my Mission this week?

# Spirit Talk

Post this where you will see it regularly.

## **Bold obedience makes my innocence shine through.**

*“Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust him, and he will help you. He will make your innocence radiate like the dawn, and the justice of your cause will shine like the noonday sun. King David | Psalm 37:5-6*



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