

Revival Without Rebellion

By Francis Chan

Francis Chan:

It's kind of hard to follow that.

[Audience laughs]

Francis Chan:

I remember when I was in college. Uh, we were trying to remember these Old Testament stories, obviously I didn't do so well. But um.

[Audience laughs]

Francis Chan:

But we-we did something like that, too, so.

[Francis Chan raps the next lines]

Francis Chan: Here's a little story I'd like to tell, about two young brothers you know so well.

[Audience laughs]

Francis Chan:

One went to heaven, the other burned in hell. We're talking about Cain and his brother "A-bell."

[Audience laughs]

Francis Chan:

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Cain wa--

[Francis Chan and audience laugh]

Francis Chan:

Now Cain was happy with the fruit that he picked, but when God saw it, He got a little ticked.

[Audience laughs]

Francis Chan:

They both laid their sacrifices at the Lord's feet. God said, I don't want veggies, I want some meat.

[Audience laughs]

Francis Chan:

When Cain saw that, he said, look Jack, his brother turned around and he stabbed him in the back.

[Audience laughs]

Francis Chan:

From all this, there's a lesson to be learned: if you don't bring God meat, you might get burned.

[Francis Chan finishes rapping]

[Audience laughs and applauds]

Francis Chan:

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Were you expecting that, Ron?

[Francis Chan and audience laughs]

Francis Chan:

Me neither. Um, this is fun.

[Francis Chan laughs]

Francis Chan:

What do you want me to do next? Um, I was-I was cracking up this afternoon after I spoke, like, wow, that was really funny that I totally botched everything up. Um, but in perfect context, wasn't it? You know, just like, wow Lord, that was so You! Just to say, you know, You use imperfect people. Um, I told you about how I struggled last year a little over a year ago, and just was kind of burned out on ministry and just questioning myself and the seriousness of my own faith, and and a big part of it was, was one night laying in bed with my wife. And just the church was going great. Everything was wonderful. But I said to her, I go, you know, if, if Jesus had a church in Simi Valley, I bet you mine would be bigger. I bet you people would leave His church and come to mine, because I'm not calling for the same commitment that He called to. People to. I bet you if the apostle Paul had a church in Simi Valley, I bet you mine would be bigger, because I know better how to keep a crowd and how to keep them coming week after week.

And it seemed like every time Jesus spoke, He had this, you know, this message that drove so many people away, and they were so offended by it. And-and I just began to question myself going, oh, man, am I really saying everything Jesus wants me to say? And it's been so refreshing

going back to the church and just going, you know, I'm not-I'm not backing off on anything. I'm saying everything, everything, everything I believe God wants me to say, and just to lay it out there. And I tell you this last year has been amazing. This has been, this is by far the most exciting time of ministry to me. It's not just in my church, but I don't know if you sense it, but there's a real movement going on right now. I mean, as I talk to college students, it's ridiculous what they are willing to do nowadays. They will do anything, anything, anything for the sake of the gospel. And it is so exciting to be a pastor in these times. And I remember it was with the college students that a huge movement began in my church years ago. It was just the faith of these college students, where I remember our college pastor, Chuck, took a bunch of students to Romania and they went and visited some orphanages, and then time to get on the plane and come home, and three of the students refused to get on the plane. They said, look, God needs us more in Romania than America. Why go back? And Chuck goes, "Because your parents will kill me."

[Audience laughs]

Francis Chan:

And he begged these students, please just get back on the plane and and I promise I'll get you back out here. And so the three students agreed and got back on the plane. And sure enough, went right back to Romania afterwards, after saying goodbye to their parents. And it's just been that type of attitude of students just all--in fact, last Wednesday night, I had three of our college students, you know, tell me, you know, "Hey, we were in Hollywood last night. We were going and just walking the streets," not walk in the streets, you know, walking, "walking the streets of Hollywood to help people."

[Francis Chan and audience laughs]

Francis Chan:

And uh, in a good way.

[Francis Chan and audience laughs]

Francis Chan:

And uh, and they just, you know, they just go and they were telling me the story of them just talking to different individuals. And they just go every Saturday night. And says, hey, there are people in church who are welcome. They want to come. But they're saying how they were talking to this one guy who was trying to sell them some CDs and like, "Hey, we're not interested, but can we buy you dinner?" And the guy's like, "Sure, where are we going?" They go, "Anywhere you want." He goes, "Okay, let's go to Hooters."

[Audience laughs]

Francis Chan:

And these guys are like, oh, great, you know?

[Francis Chan and audience laughs]

Francis Chan:

And they're walking, looking at each other like, "Are you okay with this?" "Not really, I don't know what to do. We promised him!" And they're walking. Just going, "Lord, help us. We don't want to go, but we made a promise to this guy," and on and on. Anyways, they get there and there's a 45-minute wait, and the guy goes, "Eh, let's go somewhere else." And they're like, "Oh, yes!" You know.

[Audience laughs]

Francis Chan:

But it's just so cool. You know, in my college, we had our first students that were kicked out of their apartment, because we don't have dorms. We just put them in apartment buildings. And these students got kicked out of the apartment. And the news gets back to me, "Hey, we got some students kicked out." I'm like, oh, man, my whole point of putting students in these apartment buildings is to be a light. And I'm like, "Well why did they get kicked out?" And they said, "They kept bringing in homeless people."

[Audience laughs]

Francis Chan:

And I'm like, "Oh, that's cool."

[Francis Chan and audience laugh]

Francis Chan:

You know, it's just this attitude of man, anything, I'll go anywhere, I'll do anything. I'll say anything to anyone. And what's-what's exciting is it's not just the college students now, but even the older people. I mean, I have this one guy in my church and-and he's uh, he's a perfect picture of a lot of guys his age. He's-he's almost 60 now. And uh, he's got this multi multimillion dollar company, and we sit down one time and he just says, "Look, I, I was saved during the Jesus movement because I used to walk around with nothing, nothing, just walk around, bare feet, telling people about Jesus and I was so happy." And he goes, "Look at me now. Look at what

I've done over the last 30 years." He goes, "I haven't denied myself anything. Look at this huge house I have. Look at this, you know, fifty-thousand-dollar car, anything I've wanted, I've just taken." He goes, "In fact, the other day, I'm in my prayer closet. And as I'm in my prayer closet, on my knees, I think to myself, wow, I have a lot of pants." He goes, "So I stop my prayer and I just decide to count how many pairs of pants I have, because I got 75 pairs of pants."

[Audience laughs]

Francis Chan:

I mean, girls are like, oh!

[Audience laughs]

Francis Chan:

That's a, you know, it's--it's just this idea, he goes, he goes, "I just thought, what am I doing here?" And he says, "I was so happy when I had nothing. Then I just amassed all this stuff for me, me, me, me, me." And he goes, "I want to go back. I want to give it all away. I just want to go back to where I was." And there's this whole movement of people in their late 50s, 60s that are going, "I've become the very thing that I hated. I became the people that I hated, that were just tied to this mortgage, and this boring life, and this American dream, rather than really pursuing what Christ has called us to pursue." And they're all awakening, and so I just love this time in ministry. I have never loved ministry so much. And it just blows my mind that a little over a year ago, I was just about done, and now I'm going, wow, Lord, this is just, this is fun. And there's these college students that are rising up that are saying, "Wait a second, how come,

how can we not live this? How come no one really actually lives this out?" I mean, we sing songs about it, we talk about it in church, but no one actually does it and lives it out.

And-and these students are frustrated. These twenty somethings that are just frustrated they go, "No, let's just do it. Let's live it out, because the world sees that we're fake. And-and is it so much that the people in America are resistant to Jesus, or is it that they've just never seen Him? They've heard about Him, but have they really seen the actions of true believers?" And so I love this movement. And even talking to some of you, it's exciting to see-it's exciting to me to see how willing you are to do anything and say anything. But with that, I want to throw out a few cautions, which is so rare to me, um, I'm never the cautious type. I'm always coming into a crowd and go, "Come on, let's do something! Just run. Just do something," you know, and just trying to stir people to action. And it's kind of fun now that people are being stirred to action that I actually have to go, "Okay, as you go, let's be careful of a few things." I just want to throw this out tonight before we move on any further. First thing is, don't get mad at your church. Don't-don't blame your church. Love it. I'm hearing a lot of people put down their churches, and a lot of people get angry with their churches. A lot of people going to their pastors and kind of, in the spirit of rebellion and getting angry at the way things are.

But, it's not the church's fault if you are not walking according to God's word. Okay? Because I, it is so rare that you will find a pastor or a church that prevents you from living this book. I mean, your pastor ever tell you don't pray so much? Did he ever keep you from getting your friends over to your house for an all night prayer meeting? Did he ever tell you don't give so much to the poor? Does he really keep you from doing this, or is it just kind of our scapegoat

where we want to blame the church and go, "Well my church doesn't teach a--my church isn't into that." But you've known all along what the Word of God said, have you done it? You see, otherwise, it becomes like this Adam and Eve thing where, you know, when Adam gets caught eating the fruit, what does he say? It was that woman You gave me, you know, she's all "coochie-coochie," you know, eat this.

[Audience laughs]

Francis Chan:

You know, he goes, "I was-I was totally fine. I was totally fine. And then You brought that woman." Well, I just see in the church, you know, we as Christians, we know, we know we're not really living this thing. And we know we don't really want to live a lot of this. And so then we blame it on the church and go, "Well, it was that church You gave me. It was that pastor, you know, You put me under." You guys, no, no pastor, no church is keeping you from living out the word of God, so don't try to blame the church. You have to love it. God's agenda is through the church. And I and I've had my frustrations with my own church. You know, I almost left it, and that was so wrong because in the end, I just realized, no, you know what? I'm called to love these people. Jesus says, "It's upon this rock, I will build My church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it." He didn't talk about us living as individuals. He talked about--He didn't talk about you as an individual prevailing. He talked about you, a part of the church, and Him building this church, and how the gates of hell were not going to prevail against it.

And I got to ask you, are you loving your church? Or are you rebelling against it? Instead of rebelling, we're called to disciple. I just want to talk about discipleship now for a second, because

I feel like it's been lost. There was a movement a few years ago, and I thought it was great. There are a lot of great things coming out of it, called the Promise Keepers movement. I remember the guys in my church got so fired up, and I praise God for that. But one of the things that came out of that movement was we got a lot of guys in these small groups, which, again, is a good thing. But what happened in these small groups was pretty soon they started saying, "Well, we just we get together. There's no real leader. We just hold each other accountable." And so that, there's nothing wrong with that and, you know, I think I think that's great. That's cute. Get a bunch of guys together, share whatever. But the problem is, is biblically, there was always a leader. Biblically, there was this issue of discipleship, and it's so much easier to back off and say, "Well, we don't really have a leader," rather than saying like Paul in First Corinthians 11:1, "Follow my example. Follow my example as I follow the example of Jesus Christ. Follow my example as I follow the example of Jesus Christ."

And I got to ask you, have you ever even thought about saying that to another human being? Have you ever in your life said that to someone else, man, just follow me. Follow me, just follow my example. Watch how I live, follow my example, not follow my words, not come to a Bible study with me where I share some words, but literally follow my example because I am going hard after Jesus, I am going to try to live just like Jesus Christ lived. And it would do you good., It would serve you well to just follow my example. Has that thought ever entered your head even? You go, you know, I'm really going to disciple, I'm really going to follow hard after Jesus Christ, so much so that I could look at a high school student, say, you know what, I'm going to try so hard to live like Jesus. Just watch my life. And live like me. Those are hard words to say, aren't they? And yet that was the whole model laid out in scripture for us was to follow

examples. And this isn't about you being this great person, to where you go, yeah, you should follow me because I am so great, but it's really believing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

And saying, "God, You know what? Your spirit is in me, so You can make me like Your Son, Jesus. And I am going to look at some younger believers, I'm going to look at some new believers and say, watch the way I live. Then follow my example." I just want to ask you to consider that, see, because we can get very arrogant and we can blame the church and go "Oh, the church doesn't know anything, they don't know." Well, what about you? What have you actually done? Because Paul tells Timothy, he says, "Don't let anyone," you know the verse First Timothy 4:12, "Don't let anyone look down on your youth. But," what, "Set an example. Set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, in purity." He didn't say talk about it, he doesn't say, "Okay, don't let-don't let people look down on you, get in their face and tell them what they're doing wrong. Write books about it, tell them how they're screwed up. Go up to your pastor and tell him he's not doing the right thing and show him where he's wrong." He doesn't say any of that. He goes, "No, you set the example then, as a young person." I mean, that's always the picture they put in scripture is the person that's in submission, they are supposed to win the authority over without a word, according to First Peter 3.

No, you submit to that authority and then you win them over by your chaste and respectful behavior, you win them over by setting an example in speech, in life, in love, in faith, in purity. I tell you, I have learned so much from the college students at my church. Not the ones that come up and have all this stuff to say, because they're just so brilliant. But from the ones that are living

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this life quietly, and I'm going, he did what? What are they doing now? I mean, this one guy he was like, "Man, after that one message you gave, I decided,"

[Francis Chan laughs]

Francis Chan:

He says, "I decided I don't need to live in my apartment. I'm living in my car now." It's like, wow.

[Audience laughs]

Francis Chan:

That's, that's challenging. I see, I don't need a caution in getting in my face and going, "Hey, I saw you at Starbucks and you bought a caramel macchiato that was three seventy. You know, you could have--" I don't need that. That doesn't really help anything, I just go, "You don't know anything, kid."

[Audience laughs]

Francis Chan:

But when someone says, "Yeah, man, that message was so convicting and so I, I just felt like I should just live in my car for a while and save the money and give it to the poor." There was a single guy who comes up to me and says, "You know, I bought this house, I'm a real estate agent, you know, first house, and all his equity in it. And then I-then you talked about having a home in heaven. So I thought, why do I have this house? I want to give my house to the church. I'm going to move back in with my parents." You're just going to give us your house, and move

back in with your parents? See, that stuff convicts me. Action convicts me. When someone does something through the power of the Holy Spirit, that convicts me. When a younger person sets an example for me in their speech, in their life, their love, their faith, their purity, I go, wow, that's powerful. And so I got to ask you, are you discipling? Because in this excitement, sometimes it can turn into rebellion. It can get-it could turn into arrogance, rather than true discipleship where you live a life that's worthy of--I mean, really, what have you done?

Some of you guys know a lot, and I love the way that generation--this generation thinks, and going, wait a second, this isn't right. This isn't biblical. That's great. And I love these ideas, but what I love more is when you actually act upon them, and and sacrifice, and live, and set an example for the older generation, because that's when we listen. Set an example, go make disciples. And don't get arrogant. That's the third thing, is fight for humility. It is so easy when, you know, you know, things are wrong, you see the problems, you see the hypocrisy, you see people leaving the church in droves because of the hypocrisy of the church. But in that, it's so easy to become arrogant and just talk about it. I have this uh, I teach this sermon prep class and um, eh let me read this verse first and then I'll go--First-first Peter chapter five. First Peter chapter five. He says in verse five, he says, "Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you clothe yourselves with humility toward one another because God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand that He may lift you up in due time."

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I had a student that was preaching about humility in my sermon prep class, I mean, this student is a great, great teacher. I love teaching sermon prep, I love just taking young guys, bring them to the classroom, let them preach in front of me, and just uh, just, how bad they are.

[Audience laughs]

Francis Chan:

It's just no, no, just critiquing and to see the growth and everything else, but oh, no, I love it because every week I get so convicted by some of these messages that they give. These college students. And this one kid who's-who is my favorite student just by far is an Asian kid.

[Audience laughs]

Francis Chan:

Go figure, but he is a great teacher, he gave-he gave his talk on humility that I will never forget. But he told this, he used this illustration and it was so good, he told this story, it's an old joke that some of you may have heard, and uh, it's about a fish, this fish that was swimming downstream. Have you heard before it? This fish is just going downstream and it's just jamming, it's just going faster and faster down this river, down this river, then suddenly, bam, he hits a wall. You know what he says?

[Audience laughs]

Francis Chan:

Dam.

[Audience laughs]

Francis Chan:

It's-it's-it's in context, it's okay.

[Audience laughs]

Francis Chan:

It's this uh. And he talked about how, how God in heaven, God in heaven, He has this river of grace. You know, the Bible talks about how He's, He's looking around, God--the eyes of the Lord are roaming throughout the earth. I mean, He's looking for someone to bless. He wants to show grace to us. He wants to just pour His grace out on the humble. And so you've got all this channel of grace coming toward us and it's coming, coming, coming and then dam. It hits our pride, because your pride is that dam that's keeping the grace of God from flowing into your life. And all these things that could have happened and would have happened didn't happen because of your pride, because this is, God gives grace, He gives His grace to the humble, but He opposes the proud. You see, God wants to start a movement through you. God's looking for people in this room going, "Man, it's not like I don't want you to succeed. I want you to succeed. I want you to go and change your church, I want you to do all sorts of crazy things for My kingdom. Man, and I want to bless you. I'm going to make it so great, but if you're arrogant, you're not getting any of My grace." In fact, He says, "I will oppose you. I'll oppose the proud."

And so in your eagerness to-to start a revolution or to, you know, change your church or everything else, let's just watch this. Because it'll be shut down so quickly. Fight, fight, fight for humility, because don't you want to be a person that just experiences the grace of God where everything you touch turns to gold, and-and you see people's lives turned around through the

Holy Spirit in your life, well that's going to happen through humility. God gives grace to the humble. And any time you look at yourself and you're frustrated going, wow, no doors are opening for me in ministry. Check your pride, first of all. Yeah, just really think through, is this about me, because it can't be about you. It's got to be about God and it's about His grace and that's the last thing I want to share tonight, is don't lose sight of His grace. Don't lose sight of His grace, because it can very easily become this thing where, "Look what my generation did. Look what we're doing. Look how we're living. Look at what we're giving. Look at how we serve. Look at how we study. Look how we love each other. Look how we share on and on. Look at us. Look at us. Look at us." And you guys, it can't be about us. This is about the grace of God.

Man it's because God has been so good to us that we understand some of these things, and we recognize what changes need to take place. Man, thank God for that. If you're a giver, someone who just loves to give and share everything, you don't care about material possessions, thank God for that. Don't be boastful. And don't, don't-don't assume that you got there yourself, thank God that you're not selfish, selfishness is a horrible way to live life. It's all about the grace of God. Last weekend I started a series in the book of Galatians, and I've been studying this book and I love it, but he says, "Grace, grace and peace to you from God our Father in the Lord Jesus Christ." Grace and peace to you. "Who gave Himself for our sin, gave Himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen." He just says grace to you, God just gave this to you, He gave Himself for our sins, you didn't earn it. I mean, you guys know what grace is? Grace is you just get something. Grace is. Grace is uh, what's your name?

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Audience member:

Catherine.

Francis Chan:

Catherine, here, here's 20 bucks. Here you go.

[Audience laughs]

Francis Chan:

Grace is just, it's like, what? That's not fair. Grace is--you can't just give her 20.

[Audience laughs]

Francis Chan:

You can't just hand someone something. And that's, you got to--This is all about God. It's all about God just saying, "You know what? I'm just going to give My Son to you. I'm just going to have Him die on that cross for you. He's just going to rescue you from this present age. He's rescuing you. He's just handing--" and so you're just left there going, "Wait, wait a second. So just like that, you're going to erase everything I've ever done? You're not going to punish me for anything, just like that? You're just going to hand me forgiveness?" "Yeah." "And then you're just going to give me heaven? you're just going to give me heaven, all the riches of my inheritance, all the riches of the kingdom now are mine, I just get to-I get to be a son of Yours and You're going to hand me the riches of heaven?" "Yeah." That's grace, it's just giving it to you, it's nothing of yourself. And this knowledge that you have, it's because God is just handing it to you. See, "I'm going to open your eyes to scripture like other generations maybe have not

seen it. I'm going to open your eyes to a story, and I'm even giving you the grace to actually do it, to pull it off."

And you just have to go, "Wow, that's awesome. That's awesome." Why is it, He-He gives us this grace to rescue us from the present evil age according to the will of God, our Father, to whom be glory forever and ever amen. Why? So that to Him be glory forever and ever, amen. So it's not as--see, it's-we live in a world where it appears noble to say, "Well, I'm going to pay you back God. Watch what I do for You, God. And it appears noble, you go, well, what's wrong with doing a few good works and and wanting to kind of earn some of this stuff? And-and God saying, "Oh, no, no. To Me, to Me, the glory needs to be to Me. Salvation comes from Me. So this way at the end you can't say, "Hey, look what I did. Let me in. Look what I did. Look at my life. Look at my good works." But instead, we're all just left going, "Wow, look at Him, I can't believe He gave me this. I'm blown away by everything He gave. He gave, He gave, to whom be the glory forever and ever amen. That's why Paul says to them, he goes, the next verse, "I'm astonished you're so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel, which is really no gospel at all. Evidently, some people are throwing you into confusion or trying to pervert the gospel of Christ."

Then he says, "But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned. As we've already said, so we say again, if anyone is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned." And I looked that up because I'm like, wait a second, does he really mean eternally condemned? Does that word anathema really mean that? But it does. It means it's

excommunication. It means leaving something alone without God's blessing on it, for God to do with it as He pleases and to excommunicate Himself from it. This is this eternally condemned, he goes, "Man, I know it appears that some people are such nice people because they're preaching, hey, let's do good stuff. And by doing good stuff we'll earn the favor of God." That sounds really nice, and yet Paul says, "Man, even if I say that, even if I add to the gospel, add to the good news," which he says isn't good news at all. He says, "I don't care if an angel, I don't care if it's not just a, you know, nicely groomed, you know, guy coming up to your door telling you about all these works you can do."

He goes, "Man, I don't care if it's an angel." You can have the most beautiful angel fly down and go, you know, you know, whatever they say. You know, I don't care if it's an angel from heaven that looks so beautiful and so perfect. He's glowing, and yet he tells you, is Jesus plus this. He says, "To hell with him. To hell with them." "You see," Paul says, "Look, my-my number one, I love people, but my number one allegiance is to God and to His glory, and I will defend His glory and will not let a human being, no matter how nice they look or whatever else, how sincere they appear, I will not let them take the glory away from God. There is one gospel, and I will defend that." That's why it is in the next verse, he goes, "Am I trying to win the approval of men? Or of God? Am I trying to please men? If I were trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ." He's saying, "Look, I'm all for loving people and I will give everything, man, I wish I could be a curse for my brothers." He goes, "At the same time, if someone's going to preach something other than the true gospel, hey, to hell with him, let him be eternally condemned. Because we have got to protect the glory of God." And we have-we cannot lose sight of the grace

of God, and so as we do these good works, which the Bible does command us to do, let's also be careful that we don't start this weird work salvation type mentality.

And I had to look over at my life and go, "Wow, do I sometimes get so fired up getting people to do things and-and even questioning their-their salvation that I could lose sight of the grace of God?" And I just sit back and go, "Wow, I'm a disgusting sinner." The wages of sin is death. I deserve God's punishment. But He gives me this free gift of eternal life. And just to enjoy them. My daughter, she just memorized that verse in Awana and was asking me at dinner tonight, "What-help me explain that, explain that verse fully to me." I mean, she says, "How do I fully understand that?" We went through the whole thing and it was just so good for me again to go, that's right. I earn for myself how? I'm nothing great. Then by the grace of God, He just hands me eternal life. Let's make sure this is always about God. I love, we were singing that song this morning, you stir it up in our hearts, a passion for your name, stirred up in our hearts, Lord, stir it up in our hearts, Lord. I want a stirring, I want a passion, but I want it to be a passion for His name. I don't want to be a passion of rebellion. I don't want to be a passion against the church. I don't want to be a passion about look at all that we do, and look at how foolish they are. It's about a passion for his name.

You know, let me just closes this one story. I was reading the other day. Well, first of all, I-two weeks ago, I was having dinner with these guys, and the guy on my left was one of the leaders in the abolitionist movement who's trying to kill the whole human trafficking movement that's going on. And so he's talking about this stuff at dinner and it's just killing me. I mean, I was up literally, literally, I'm not a crier. But I must have cried for two hours that night. As I was going

to bed, just laying in my bed, just weeping in this hotel room because I was thinking about these kids and what they're going through, and I thought, "Wow, what if that-what if that were Mercy? What if that were Rachel? What if-what if that were one of my kids and I knew that my kid--" I mean, I know you don't have kids, but imagine you have your own child and then your child gets kidnapped and taken away from you, and now is in some brothel somewhere. Can you imagine how you would just turn over every stone and you would just go nuts? Absolutely nuts finding your child. And you would lead a movement, and get everyone you could find to get a hold of your child, and I'm just weeping because I'm-I went there in my head like, what if it was one of my kids that someone stole? Was doing all sorts of things to? I was going insane and I just felt like God was saying, "I want you to love these other kids as your own."

And so now I'm weeping even more like, wow, that's a, that's huge, I'm supposed to love them as myself, what am I going to do? And I'm just crying, and crying, and just going, "God, we've got to do something!" And so we're-we're starting as a church trying to figure out what do we do here, what can we do? But I'm reading on the Internet and I read about this woman. This is what leads to it. This woman named Kru Nam and, she's just this painter in Thailand, and she was teaching these kids how to paint, you know, the street kids, and suddenly as they started to paint, they paint these images that were disgusting. And then she started to learn about what was going on in their lives and realized many of them had been shipped from different places. And they were stuck in these karaoke bars and brothels, and-and this woman just decided, "I've got to do something, I got to run." And so she started what she does--she doesn't talk to anyone. She just starts running into these brothels, sneaking into them and grabbing as many kids as she can and

running out. She starts stealing these slaves out. It's a-it's an awesome story. And as I'm reading, I want to do that. I mean that. I want a rush. What's, what's something to give your life to?

And so she's rescuing these kids and just going from these bars to bars, you know, and gathering these kids. Well pretty soon, obviously, she gets found out. There is death threats on her life and everything else. So she moves up to northern Thailand, and she needed some support, you know, financially to build this orphanage for these kids that she's rescued. There's one hundred and twenty-five of them. Wow, this one woman rescued one hundred and twenty-five kids, and now she's building an orphanage for them and-and helping them to just get their minds together and everything else. And I bring that story up because, in the past, I would have preached that message and preached her testimony in such a way where I would have said, "Yeah, so why aren't you doing anything? You losers, look at her," you know. But-but that's not what I think anymore. Now, I think what an awesome life for that woman. I bet you there are very few people on this earth who are as fulfilled as her. Can you imagine what it would be like to wake up every morning and look at one hundred and twenty-five kids that you rescued from that type of lifestyle and now you're helping them? Can you imagine how filling that must be? How much more pleasure comes from that than waking up every morning to a huge living room?

I mean, don't you understand, it's not about "Let's do this because God's making us do it," no, it's, "Let's do this because this is the greatest life possible." And by the grace of God, He made that woman a giver. By the grace of God, she's living a life that she's really pretty stoked on. And she's going to have an eternity that she'll be even more thrilled about. That's the grace of God in our lives that moves us toward action. And so understand, this is not about, "Hey, look at me,

look at everything I've done. Look at everything I've accomplished." It's about, "Wow, God, give me Your grace so that I could become that. God, give me Your grace, because I want to be a giver." I have yet to meet a happy, selfish person. A happy, greedy person, and yet these people who give their lives for Jesus Christ, what an absolute rush. Isn't that the type of life you want to live? And I know, as I say, that some of you go, "Man, I want to go do that right now," you know, it's just, "What else am I going to do with my life?" And it was so cool because as I was sharing that, a guy in my church was all, "Oh, next service, one of my friends, she's coming here and that's what she does." I'm like, "Nuh-uh!"

And sure enough, next service, she was just back on break and she's from Burma, and she's been there for six years. And I was like, "Hey, come up here. I don't even know you, I don't know if you speak English, and come up here. Tell me what you do." She shares with the whole congregation and goes, "Yeah, that's what I-we actually buy them. I don't steal them. I just-I buy these slaves and then we set up this orphanage and everything else." I'm like, "Right on." And they're passing the offering. Well, I said, "Tell me your testimony." Her testimony was so cool. She starts talking, she goes, "Well, actually, I was a go-go dancer in Hollywood. And these guys just were walking the streets telling people about Jesus. In fact, they they go to this church. It's from six years ago, a different group of guys. And that's the first time I heard the gospel. And when I heard it, I knew I needed to go out and rescue others. And so that's what I'm doing now. And I'm going back in a couple of weeks." I'm like, "No way, I can't believe you're here on this weekend." And I'm talking about, and I'm just learning her testimony as I'm interviewing her in front of the church, because I felt led by the Spirit to bring her up, and she's saying this. And-and you got to understand my church, when they're-when they hear a story like that, they just throw

money at the person, you know. So afterwards, it's like her olden days, people are throwing her dollar bills.

[Audience laughs]

Francis Chan:

No. That was bad, that was bad.

[Audience laughs]

Francis Chan:

But it's okay, she was rescued, she was rescued. I just blew a great moment.

[Audience laughs]

Francis Chan:

It's just another stupid, what will I do tomorrow? Okay, but what a rush. You know what was cool? Even cooler? I'll bring it back. Okay, is after service, this other girl goes, "I do the same thing in East Africa. I'm just back on break." I'm going, "No way, you buy slaves?" "Yeah." I'm like, "So cool." These people in church are going, this is my life. I just came back for a few weeks and came to this church. You want to get fired up? Go back out again. And I just go, man, what a great life, I'm just jealous, jealous of that that girl, jealous of the other girl. Also, there's a woman in Thailand just going--man, what a great life. And I know what God's called me to do here, and to keep telling people, go, go, go, go. But at the end of the day, it's not about us, is it? It's about the grace of God. Let's fight for humility. Let's follow the example of Christ. Let's disciple. Okay, make sure we disciple, but don't get mad at your church. Go back to your church

and love your church. Live the life in the midst of the believers in your church, and tell them to follow your example as you follow the example of Christ. And that's the way a movement starts, that's where true revival happens.

Let me pray. Oh, God, I want so badly to live a life that is fulfilling and I thank You right now because I feel that way, I do believe that something is happening, and I get to be a part of how You're moving God. I pray for these students as they grow and they continue to have this passion, but may the passion for Your name may not grow arrogant. God, we don't want You to oppose us, we want to experience Your grace, the grace that leads us to a fulfilling life and ultimate joy and ultimate blessing in heaven. Thank You. Thank You so much for the grace of Jesus Christ, the grace of the cross, the grace of the good news. This is all about You. Thank you for everything You've handed us this week and in our lives, it is all about You, to You be the glory forever and ever and ever and ever and ever and ever. Amen.