



TITLE: "Blockbuster: 'Invictus'"

OPENING QUESTION: If you could perform one "surprise" act of kindness for a stranger today, what would it be?

2 Corinthians 5:17-18 & 20— Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation... We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.

We are not just RECIPIENTS of reconciliation; we are AGENTS of reconciliation.

QUESTION: The message states we are "not just recipients of reconciliation, but agents of reconciliation." What is the biggest difference in your daily life when you view yourself as an "agent" rather than just a "recipient"?

Galatians 3:26-28— So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

As an ambassador of Jesus and agent of reconciliation:

- Surprise them with COMPASSION
- Surprise them with RESTRAINT
- Surprise them with GENEROSITY

QUESTION: We are encouraged to surprise people with compassion, restraint, and generosity. Which of these three areas do you find most challenging to practice when you feel frustrated or wronged?

Romans 12:17-21— Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.



QUESTION: Romans 12:21 says, "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." Can you share a time when you were able to "overcome evil with good"? What did that look like?

Acts 1:8— But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

John 17:20-23— "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Luke 23:34— "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

Hebrews 12:1b-3— And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

We are fighting for the eternal lives, sometimes, of the very people who MOCK OUR LIVES.

Matthew 16:24b-25— ...and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.

Our anger & bitterness keep us from GOD'S BEST IN OUR LIVES & makes enemies out of the very people we are CALLED TO REACH.

Hebrews 12:1a— Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

CLOSING QUESTIONS:

QUESTION: The message notes that "our anger and bitterness keep us from God's best." What is one specific "sin that easily entangles" or hinders you that you need to "throw off" this week to run your race with perseverance?

QUESTION: Who is one person in your life who mocks your faith or is difficult to reach, and how can you specifically pursue their heart with compassion, restraint, or generosity this week?

