



Q&A about “From Comfort Zone to Trust Zone: How Jesus Urges Us to Take Leaps of Faith for His Kingdom”

Q: Give us a brief overview of “From Comfort Zone to Trust Zone.”

A: The book and its companion video series take you through a Bible study of a dozen times when Jesus challenged people, urging them to leave their comfort zones to do something new for him, to go deeper in their faith. In each case, I identify the comfort zone that Jesus is challenging, the trust zone where Jesus is leading, and how those concepts map to our own seven-day practical faith journey today.

Q: Why did you write “From Comfort Zone to Trust Zone?”

A: The theme of risk-taking for Christ appears briefly in both “Live Like You’re Loved” and in “The Legacy Tree” video series. I decided to expand on this thought, as I truly believe in the message of the Parable of the Bags of Gold, that Jesus is looking for kingdom risktakers.

That was actually the original working title for this book: “Kingdom Risktakers.” But I felt like it was confusing and didn’t fully express the transition that Christ desires of us. When we take a risk, we are going from an old something to a new something. I finally expressed that in terms of comfort zones, which we all understand, and trust zones, which is a new term, but fairly intuitive.

Q: What is a trust zone?

A: It is a spiritual place where we must trust Christ’s leadership and support as we do something out of our comfort zone for the kingdom of God. In the book and video study, I compare it to a glass floor in a tall tower. Standing on a glass floor makes you feel like you’re going to fall, but it is super sturdy to prevent that from happening.

Similarly, when we enter the trust zone, it's uncomfortable and disorienting. We think we're going to fall and fail. But in reality, we are walking on the solid ground that Jesus talked about in the Sermon on the Mount, where we build our house on rock instead of sand.

Q: What if we follow Jesus' urging and enter a trust zone, but we fail anyway?

A: That's a great question that is actually a discussion question for groups that study the book or videos together. There are valid arguments on both sides, one of which is that Jesus wants us to succeed, and the other is that Jesus simply wants our obedience, even if we fail.

I lean toward the idea that Jesus wants our obedience, even if we fail. In Christ's calculation, even something that appears to be a failure to us may be a success in his eyes. Maybe there was one person that we could influence with our risk taking. Perhaps we were called to save the one lost sheep, not the ninety-nine.

Q: What are your favorite parts of the material? And your favorite quote?

A: In several cases, I look freshly at scripture and interpret it in valid ways that people haven't thought of before. It's not that the original view of the scripture is wrong, but I look at it and take my thoughts a level deeper as I consider how confrontational and status-shaking Jesus can be.

For example, when we read the story of the Rich Young Ruler, we think of how he didn't want to give up his wealth, and we assume he was greedy. But I interpret the passage to mean that the man didn't want to give up the certainty that comes with wealth, and he opposed the uncertain life that Jesus was proposing.

My favorite moments are when I bring Jesus's disciples into the discussion. I share information that people may not realize or never thought of. Peter, Thaddeus, Matthew, and James son of Alphaeus are all brought to life as people who liked their comfort zones, but Jesus knew them well and invited them into trust zones that were relevant to their situations and personalities.

My favorite quote in the book is: "Uncertainty is the soil in which faith grows."

Q: How do you think this book and video study will be received?

A: Frankly, people don't want to be pushed out of comfort zones. This book and video study will make them uncomfortable. But people are always seeking comfort.

The reaction will be individual. Practically everyone will have some comfort zones that they are willing to leave or have already left. But then they will encounter that one comfort zone they cherish. They are going to get mad at me. They are even going to be irritated with Jesus. That person has just encountered my reason for writing the book. I want to push people out of their comfort zones and into Jesus' trust zones, even if they don't like it, and even if they don't especially like me in the moment. That was Jesus' approach, too, and why we need to listen to him through scripture.

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