

## **Chapter 7: There Is No Plan B**

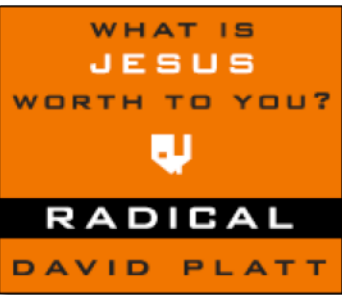
“Why going is urgent, not optional”

Some thoughts to ponder: (John 14:1-6)

- When was the last time you had some really exciting news or an urgent request to share? What was it, and whom did you tell first?
- What is ‘intellectual pluralism’? What is ‘practical universalism’ (see pp. 141-142)? Platt says most people lean towards one or the other? If this is true for you, which way do you lean?
- Spend some time thinking about and discussing the seven truths David Platt outlines on pages 143-156. Pay close attention to Truth Seven, and the logical progression Platt explains from Romans 10:13-15.
- Platt says, “We are the plan of God, and there is no plan B” (p. 156). Do you agree with this assessment? When you realize this, does it motivate you or make you nervous? Why?
- If you have been to a foreign country and have noticed how American products have found their way to the remotest parts of our globe, you were probably not shocked to hear about the ‘classic red Coke can’ David talked about on pp. 158-159. How has Coca-Cola been able to reach some of the remotest parts of the world? Is this an indictment against the efforts of the church to bring the Gospel to the world? How so?
- Assuming you agree with David that there are no innocent persons before God, how does this challenge your thinking about those in our world who do not know Jesus?
- How do you respond to this quote, “Some wonder if it is unfair for God to allow so many to have no knowledge of the gospel. But there is no injustice in God. The injustice lies in Christians who possess the gospel and refuse to give their lives to making it known among those who haven’t heard” (p. 159). How do you react to this statement? How do you respond?
- What is preventing you from giving your life ‘urgently’ and ‘recklessly’ to making the gospel and glory of God known among all people (p. 160)?

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## **Chapter 8: Living When Dying Is Gain**

“The risk and reward of the radical life”

Some thoughts to ponder: (Matthew 10:1-39)

- Recall the story of the martyred missionary couple who were the first to try and bring the Gospel to the Batak tribe. David asks if you would be willing to enter into a situation like this as the pioneer missionaries. Consider this question, and also ask yourself if you would be willing to be the second group to go, knowing full well the horrific results of the first endeavor. Which is more difficult – going first or second?
- What do you think it means to be sent out like sheep? Talk about the characteristics of sheep? How do you feel about being called a sheep? Spend some time discussing what it means to be a sheep among wolves (see Matthew 10:16).
- Jesus told his disciples they would be betrayed and disowned. Have you experienced this in your own faith journey? How have you been rejected or treated differently by your family and friends because of your faith in Jesus Christ? How have you suffered for your faith?
- Platt says, “The more our lives are conformed to his (Jesus), the more we will receive what he received in this world” and “The danger in our lives will always increase in proportion to the depth of our relationship with Christ” (p. 167). Knowing what Jesus received in this world, does this kind of a statement make you more excited or less excited about following Jesus? Why?
- What parallels do you see between the changed use of the *SS United States* (battleship turned luxury liner) and the Christian church (pp. 169-170)? How is the Church sometimes like a luxury liner? How is it like a ‘troop carrier’ or battleship? Give some examples from your experience.
- Compare the rewards of the American dream and the reward of following Christ (see p. 171-172). How are they similar? How are they drastically different?
- What does Paul mean when he says “To live is Christ and to die is gain” (Philippians 1:21)?
- How have your choices about following Jesus been affected by personal comforts and safety? Is your life characterized more by the fear of personal loss or a passionate dedication (regardless of potential loss) to the radical Christ-like life? What is the ‘great’ reward of the radical life of Jesus? How can your loss become a gain?

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