

Radical – David Platt

Chapter 1 – Someone Worth Losing Everything For

1. David Platt said on pages 2-3, “ I realized I was on a collision course with an American church culture where success is defined by bigger crowds, bigger budgets, and bigger buildings...Jesus actually spurned the things that my church culture said were important. I found myself faced with to big questions...Was I going to believe Jesus? Was I going to obey Jesus?...We are settling for Christianity that revolves around catering to ourselves when the central message of Christianity is actually about abandoning ourselves.

Do you agree or disagree (or both) with his assessment of American church culture found in Chapter one? Please explain.

2. Cite the words of Christ in the gospels mentioned in this chapter that sets forth our need to abandon ourselves to Christ and the gospel. pages 7-21

3. How does the parable of the hidden treasure from Matthew 13:44 apply to us Christians as a motivation to fully abandon ourselves to Christ? pages 17-18

4. What are six values mentioned that the American culture has embraced which are antithetical to the gospel? page 19 How has the American evangelical church been influenced by these values?

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Chapter 2 – Too Hungry for Words

**1. On pages 23-26 the author tells about teaching persecuted house church leaders the Word of God for 10 days from morning until evening. David Platt led the his church in a six hour Bible study on a Friday nights called “Secret Church.” What causes followers of Christ in some areas of the world to risk their lives to study God’s Word?
What interest do you think there might be if your church had a “Secret Church?”
Explain**

2. This chapter delves into the real purpose of the cross and Jesus’ death. Give the author’s explanation of the gospel showing our needs, the purpose of Christ’s suffering and what our response should be to it. pages 35-36

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Chapter 3 – Beginning at the End of Ourselves

1. On pages 45-47, the author explains in detail the beliefs, assumptions and goals of the American dream. Briefly summarize what the author said about this and contrast that with what the gospel teaches.

2. Under the heading “Superior Power” (pages 53 & 54), contrast two different churches and explain why one can accomplish more than the other even though it may be under-resourced. What is the key element in doing something significant for the glory of God?

3. The author talks about the gift of the Holy Spirit mentioned in Luke 11:13. After Christ’s invitation to ask, seek and knock, He finishes with the words, ..."how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask for him." Why does the author say the gift of the Holy Spirit is so strategic in our lives when our real concern is having our needs met? pages 57 & 58

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Chapter 4 – The Great Why of God

1. What is the two-fold purpose why God made us? page 65

2. What does the American church culture often do with these two purposes? pages 69-70
What is the sad result of this in church life? page 70
What is not the complete message of the gospel that we often hear? page 70

3. The author says that the followers of Christ in the New Testament “regardless of his or her calling was intended to take the mantle of proclaiming the gospel to the ends of the earth.” page 73 Matthew 28:19-20 & Acts 1:8
Where are you in your own personal life in regard to your obedience to this command to take the gospel to the world?

4. “Our hearts should be consumed with making the glory of God known to all nations.” page 77
As you prayerfully consider “making the glory of God known”, for what country or people has God burdened your heart?

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Chapter 5 – The Multiplying Community

1. David Platt said Jesus had a strategy to make God’s glory known to all nations. What is this strategy and what Biblical support is there for this? pages 88-91

2. The author wrote about the difference between receivers of God’s Word and reproducers of God’s Word. Please explain the difference between the two and give the spiritual benefits of being reproducers. What advantage does a church have that is filled with reproducers? pages 99-103

3. Explain the difference between disinfecting Christians and discipling Christians. What are the advantages of discipling Christians? pages 103-106

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Chapter 6 – How Much is Enough?

- 1. What is the glaring blind spot (area of disobedience) that the author found in his life? What extent is this blind spot in the American Church? Ourselves? pages 107-111 What relationship does this area have to do with our salvation? Eph. 2:8-10**

- 2. Jesus said, “Go sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in Heaven.? Mark 10:21 pages 112-124**
In relation to this verse answer the following questions:
 - A. How radical did this verse seem to the hearers of Christ’s day?**

 - B. Does this command apply to every Christian today? If not directly, in what could this apply to us in our day?**

 - C. “Jesus is launching a direct attack on the sense of security and stability that this rich young ruler had in this world.” Jesus wants to reign over us and our possessions also. When Jesus calls us to let go of things, to sacrifice things, to sell things and to give things away....what response will we give him?**

- 3. Reading pages 124-140, David Platt shares with us the choices he and his family had to make and the challenges he gave to his church to alleviate death, suffering and poverty in the world. The author tells of his own war in his heart with materialism and his never ending process of identifying necessities and removing luxuries. He said, “The mark of Christ’s followers is that their hearts are in heaven and their treasures are spent there.” page 138 After reading these pages, how has God touched your heart about what you can do to downsize your life so you can fully participate in helping the billions of poor on the earth?**

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Chapter 7 – There Is No Plan B?

1. What is universalism? What is the difference between intellectual and practical universalism? pages 142

2. As you read Romans chapters 1 to 3: (1) Why are people without excuse? Romans 1:18-20, page 143 (2) What are people's true reaction to the knowledge of God? pages 144-145 , Romans 1:21-25

3. How do we answer the question, “What happens to the innocent guy in the middle of the jungle who dies without ever hearing the gospel?” pages 146- 147

4. In Romans 10:13-15 we see God's design for taking the gospel to all the peoples of the world. Give the steps in their order that David Platt listed for people to be saved. pages 154-156

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Chapter 8 – Living When Dying Is Gain

1. In this chapter the author challenges us with the question, “Do we believe the reward found in Jesus is worth the risk of following Him?” Since Jesus said, “I am sending you out like sheep among wolves,” what might be the extent of the risk we are taking to follow Christ? Give an illustration of the possible sacrifices we might have to make from what happened to Christians when trying to reach the Batak tribe of northern Sumatra in Indonesia. pages 162-165

2. Read and meditate on the following words of Jesus, Paul and David Platt and then answer the question that follows:

Jesus said, “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. Remember the words I spoke to you: ‘No servant is greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also.” John 15:18-20

Paul said, “Everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.” II Timothy 3:12

David Platt said, “The reality is that if we really become like Jesus, the world will hate us. Why? Because the world hated him....To everyone wanting a safe, untroubled, comfortable life free of danger, stay away from Jesus. The danger in our lives will always increase in proportion to the depth of our relationship with Christ.” page 167

Question: Since these words are true, what is our response to them and how should we prepare ourselves for suffering and persecution?

3. Explain the illustration of the ship, the S.S United States, that was originally designed as a troop carrier ship for war. What happened to the ship to change its purpose and how does that apply to the church in America today? pages 169-171

4. What are the two reasons why we have no fear for our safety as Christians? Why do we not need to be concerned about Satan’s strategy to defeat us? pages 172, 173

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Chapter 9 – The Radical Experiment

1. David Platt gives us a one year challenge in Chapter 9. List the five components of his challenge and then give them by memory. page 185

2. The first component of the one year challenge is prayer. Give two or three important comments he made concerning the need of prayer for the entire world. What verses from Matthew 9 did he cite about prayer and what book did he recommend we purchase that describes the spiritual needs of the world? pages 186-190

3. In giving and sacrificing our money, what are four factors that should guide us on how and where we are to give? pages 195-196

4. Why is it important for you to make the gospel known in another context? pages 196-204

5. The author said, “The reality is, we need community in order to follow Christ radically.” Give his reasoning why he feels this is important. pages 204-212