

The Beautiful Risk

Luke 5:27-32

The Beautiful Risk: The outcome is unsure but it is for the benefit of others.

The Ugly Risk: The outcome is unsure and it is very self-centered.

Our Problem: What if we are not taking the very risks that we should be taking?

- Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:16-20; 2 Corinthians 5:20, 21; and Galatians 6:10.

In about 30 AD an ordinary man took two big risks—and won both times:

Matthew, before he knew Jesus, was a tax collector—his life was in the ditch. (Luke 5:27)

- The rap on tax collectors:
- The future for Matthew—financially and spiritually:

Matthew took a beautiful risk and accepted Jesus' call to follow Him. (Luke 5:27, 28)

- He must have known something about Jesus:
- He thought about the evidence:
- He put all his hope in Jesus:
 - **Please Understand This:** *Jesus did not come to hold our track record against us—He came to die for it.*

Matthew took a beautiful risk and exposed his friends to Jesus. (Luke 5:29)

- The very day he came to faith:
- He took a risk and did the uncomfortable thing:
- He wanted to connect his friends to Jesus:

PLEASE UNDERSTAND THIS: *The normal Christian life is taking risks and accepting discomfort ... in order to attempt spiritual impact.*

- The normal Christian life is not “playing it safe” or “being comfortable for Jesus.”
- For example (continued / see over)

- **For example:** Matthew, Paul, Peter, Lydia, John, Mary Magdalene, James, Simon the Zealot, Timothy, Barnabas, John Mark, all the believers in the Book of Acts, Matthew 20:16-20, Acts 1:8, 2 Corinthians 5:20, 21, Galatians 6:10, Philipians 2, Billy Graham, Greg Despres, Hudson Taylor, Joe and Kim Mitchell, William Carey, Joe Wall, William and Joanie Brown, Marilyn Meyers, Amy Carmichael, Greg Sauer, Larry Moyer, George Whitfield, Cathy McLaughlin, Wilson Carniero, and on and on and on and on.

DOING BUSINESS WITH GOD: What will you do—depending on God—in order to attempt spiritual impact? There is a card in your bulletin today. Bring it forward please.

“Walking Papers”

Practical helps for walking the Christian walk each day this week.

PLEASE UNDERSTAND THIS: *The normal Christian life is taking risks and accepting discomfort ... in order to attempt spiritual impact.*

- **Today:** How would you describe your personal “track record” or past life? How do you feel about it? What do you think about it and what it means for you?
- **Monday:** In what way was Matthew’s decision to follow Christ a risk? What do you think motivated Matthew to take that risk?
- **Tuesday:** Please reflect on this: *Jesus did not come to hold our track record against us—He came to die for it.* What does this stir up in your heart and mind?
- **Wednesday:** Please reflect on this: *The normal Christian life is taking risks and accepting discomfort ... in order to attempt spiritual impact.* What does this stir up in your heart and mind?
- **Thursday:** What are the past risks you have taken in attempting spiritual impact? How did they work out?
- **Friday:** What is the current risk that God is calling you to take in an attempt to make spiritual impact? _____
When do you need to do this by? _____
- **Saturday:** Who will you ask to hold you accountable? When? _____