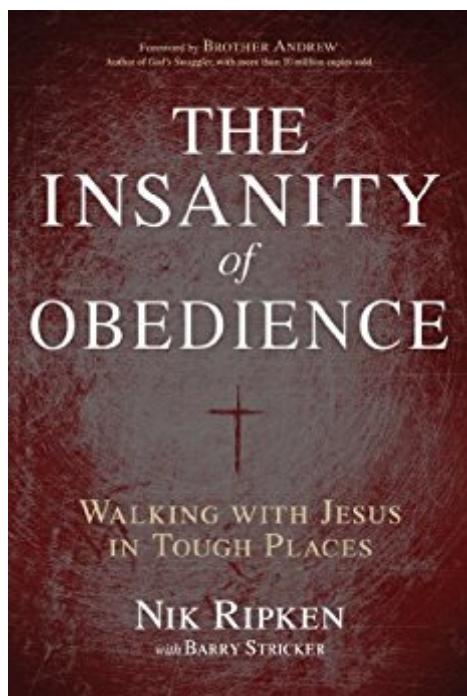


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The Insanity Of Obedience: Walking With Jesus In Tough Places



Synopsis

Wise Sheep Among the WolvesAll Christian disciples have one thing in common: as they carry the gospel across the ocean and across the street, persecution will become the norm for those who choose to follow Jesus. How believers respond in the face of persecution reveals everything about their level of faith and obedience. The Insanity of Obedience is a bold challenge to global discipleship. Nik Ripken exposes the danger of safe Christianity and calls readers to something greater. The Insanity of Obedience challenges Christians in the same, provocative way that Jesus did. This book dares you "and prepares you" to cross the street and the oceans with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Some of Jesus' instructions sound uncomfortable and are potentially dangerous. We may be initially encouraged by His declaration, "I am sending you out." But how are we to respond when He then tells us that He is sending us out "like sheep among wolves"? In light of the words of Jesus, how can modern day believers rest comfortably in the status quo? How can we embrace casual faith in light of the radical commands of Jesus which are anything but casual? Ripken brings decades of ministry experience in some of the most persecuted areas of the world to bear on our understanding of faith in Jesus. The Insanity of Obedience is a call to roll up your sleeves . . . and to follow and partner with Jesus in the toughest places on this planet. "We have the high privilege of answering Jesus' call to go," Ripken says. "But let us be clear about this: we go on His terms, not ours. If we go at all, we go as sheep among wolves." Jesus gives us Himself. And He gives us the tools necessary for those who dare to journey with Him.

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Customer Reviews

this is a terrific book for those who are committed to walking as Jesus walked through this life with many challenges. It is the second book I have read from this most dedicated traveler and seeker of truth. The first book, The Insanity of God, should be on every Christian bookshelf, better yet, right by your reading place, well read and prayed over. Life is not easy and they have sought to bring the reading to the very heart of God.

The Insanity of Obedience is the follow up book to The Insanity of God. Both are excellent. Nik Ripken candidly shares his frustrations, failures and doubts that ultimately led him to writing these two books. This book will cause you to evaluate your personal devotion to Christ, your denominational beliefs and biases and how you might be doing church. His purpose is not to destroy any of these, but to get us out of our academic superficiality and into a life changing practice of walking with Jesus. He does this by sharing true stories about churches that do this in places where persecution is not only a reality, but a normal part of Christian obedience and how God still does the impossible through those who are willing to literally take His hand and walk with Him in tough places.

This is an excellent read, stirring the heart, the mind and the soul. I highly recommend this book to anyone truly seeking to live their lives following Christ.

Nik Ripken has shared an amazing look at persecution and the attitudes of the persecuted. Their response to persecution is nothing like I thought it would be and has changed my attitude toward Christianity in the States. Every Christian should read this book. God's church in the USA would be better for it.

Such an eye opening and humbling account about the persecution and strength of faith of believers in other countries. Nik Ripken sets out on a journey to understand persecution in the church. He is

surprised and befriended, shocked and led by the Holy Spirit into some amazing and terrifying situations. A must read to understand and know that God is still at work in the world today and the gospel is still going out in the midst of evil.

This is a remarkable and fascinating book for Christians to read and be convicted for not following the instructions of Christ Jesus to witness to all people. It also points out vividly that we should expect to be persecuted for our efforts. The stories of the spread of the Gospel in unreached people groups by miraculous dreams and visions is amazing. The fact that over 80% of muslims who accept Jesus have had one of these phenomenons before ever meeting a missionary is truly amazing to me. There are many revelations to those of us who are interested and participate in missions and sending of missionaries to these people. The first book, *The Insanity Of God*, is equally exciting and I would recommend reading it first.

Wonderful book. Insightful and revealing of the western church. Not a "how-to" book! Reaching those around us with the truth of grace by trust in Christ Jesus is a worthwhile work. God is doing unexpected things in our world today. Recommend readers read the first book, *Insanity of God*, before this one. *Insanity of Obedience* builds and applies the first book to our lives.

The *Insanity of Obedience* is companion piece to Ripken's previous work, *The Insanity of God*. Although the two works cover some of the same ground, each book deserves a reading. The Ripken's felt called by God to go overseas as missionaries. When they responded to that call, they had no idea that they would eventually end up working in Somalia. In that lawless land, their faith took a major nose dive. Their losses were huge. Eventually they came home wounded emotionally and spiritually with a huge question mark hanging over their heads: can faith survive under intense persecution? They set out on a quest to find the answer to that question, eventually interviewing 600 Christians who had endured under some form of persecution. That is the subject of Ripken's first book. His second one, *The Insanity of Obedience* examines what it looks like to go out as sheep among wolves and gives story after story on how to carry out the Great Commission - even when obedience looks crazy from a human perspective.

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