

THE BIG IDEA: No moment can stop the movement.

The Take-Off

The way we capture moments has changed over the years, right?

Chisel and stone would have been a long picture!

Then it was camera and film - I still remember taking the picture and waiting a couple weeks for the prints to come.

Polaroids shortened the wait - who remembers flapping the square waiting for the image to appear?

Of course, now pictures are instant. No waiting required, and the technology we have has given rise to selfies.

How we capture moments may have changed, but the fact that we capture moments hasn't.

All of us have moments that we never want to forget, and in those moments we're thankful for the technology to preserve them.

But what about the moments we wish we could forget? What do we do with those?

[IMAGES / Awkward pictures]

And what about the people we want to reach with the gospel?

What do we do with their bad moments?

If we don't do something with forgettable moments, they'll become regrettable moments and we'll find ourselves stuck in them.

Jesus has good news for us - **no moment can stop the movement**.

He drove that point home in the final verses of **Luke 13**.

1. Sometimes it can be hard to see past the moment

- a. To really understand what was happening, we need to understand the context of the passage
- b. Jesus isn't talking about doors at Lowe's or Home Depot; He's talking about the door to the kingdom
- c. In the culture at the time, it was a commonly held belief that "all Israelites have a share in the world to come"
- d. In other words, Jews in, everyone else out. A lot like Christians in, the rest of the evil world out.
- e. In that context, Jesus pointed out the door to a big kingdom was actually pretty small, and that most people would miss it.
- f. The "most" people were the ones who thought they were already in!
- g. They didn't think any bad Gentiles or Samaritans or Romans or Greeks could be allowed in
- h. Why? Because these Jews couldn't see past the moments that made the "outsiders" so bad
- i. So Jesus points to a narrow door. What was the narrow door?
 - Narrow-mindedness? nope - we're to love the Lord with our minds, study to show ourselves approved / God isn't opposed to learning
 - Some sort of kingdom population control? nope - **v. 29** describes a scene full of people from all over
 - Whatever it was, it was a change in the thinking, mindset and behavior of those who approached it, and could only be entered through repentance
- j. We receive God's mercy (enter the door) by repenting of our unwillingness to see our need of it and others' need of it
- k. Hanging out with Jesus doesn't get us through the door. You can do that without repenting (which is the only way into the kingdom)
- l. "People" from all over will enter - the Jewish readers of Luke would have understood this to be Gentiles
- m. Think about what Jesus is saying: Jews who couldn't see past the bad moments would miss out on better moments.
- n. But in keeping with the main salvation theme of Luke, Jesus' answer to who will be saved was, "Anybody who repents of the bad moments and sees past them to the cross. Anyone who trusts that I can lead them past the moment into a movement. That person will be saved."
- o. And who won't be? Those who aren't willing to see past the moment - or allow others to see past theirs.

2. Don't freeze the moment; seize the movement

- a. Then Jesus showed how to do it.
- b. Jesus pointed out 2 examples of people with bad moments - Herod and Jerusalem - and talked about how the kingdom wasn't held captive by their bad moments - even moments of murderous rejection.

- c. He called Herod a “fox” and then went on to say that He WOULD reach His goal.
- d. Translation? The movement of my mission will not be hijacked by the moment of a madman.
- e. He may have been a fox, and may still be a fox, but I’m bringing a kingdom that can change a fox into a sheep.
- f. Instead of reacting to Herod’s bad moments, Jesus pointed Herod to a better movement.
- g. Look what Jesus said in v. 33 - “in any case, I must press on...”
- h. No matter what the moment may look like, the movement continues
- i. That Greek word for “press on” is poreuo, and it means “to pursue the journey one is on”
- j. Jesus said to Herod, “Your bad moment won’t keep me from My movement of pursuing you.”
- k. He said as much to all of Jerusalem, too!
- l. “You’ve killed, but I’ve longed to hold you.”
- m. And not just bring them close to Him, but the Greek word for “gather” means “to bring together to others already assembled.”
- n. Jesus pursues murderers and adopts them into the family, and if that’s not a picture of a movement being bigger than a moment, I don’t know what is.

The Landing

Yes, all of us have had bad moments - moments that we’d love to forget but seem unable to free ourselves from Moments that either we’ve frozen or others have frozen for us, but the power of God’s rescue mission is that He sent Jesus to start a movement that cannot be stopped by a moment, no matter how bad that moment is.

Your worst sin? Covered. Romans 5:20 says so.

And once we’ve been forgiven like that, we can’t freeze others in their worst moments, because FORGIVEN PEOPLE FORGIVE PEOPLE.

Forgiveness breeds hope, and hope MOVES us from where we are to where He wants us to be!

[Swimming rats and the power of hope]

“In the 1950s, Curt Richter, a Harvard graduate and Johns Hopkins scientist, did a series of experiments that tested how long rats could swim in high-sided buckets of circulating water before drowning. Dr. Richter found that, under normal conditions, a rat could swim for an average of 15 minutes before giving up and sinking. However, if he rescued the rats just before drowning, dried them off and let them rest briefly, and then put them back into the same buckets of circulating water, the rats could swim an average of 60 hours. Yes, 60 hours. If a rat was temporarily saved, it would survive 240 times longer than if it was not temporarily saved. This makes no sense. How could these rats swim so much longer during the second session, especially just after swimming as long as possible to stay alive during the first session? Dr. Richter concluded that the rats were able to swim longer because they were given hope. A better conclusion is that the rats were able to swim longer because they were given energy through hope. The rats had a clear picture of what being saved looked like, so they kept swimming.”

Psalms 71:5 / “For you, Lord, are my hope...” / HOPE COMES FROM THE LORD

Psalms 71:14 / “But I will hope continually...” / HOPE SUSTAINS US and CHANGES US (repentance)

We don’t come through the door of repentance in sorrow, but in hope!

Our messes - brought to and through the narrow door of repentance - is what makes us the best messengers of the news that a grace-filled kingdom has come to all who will call on the name of the Lord.

You got a bad moment? **No moment can stop the movement**, so bring it to the feet of Jesus, and watch Him transform your mess into a message.

Let’s pray.