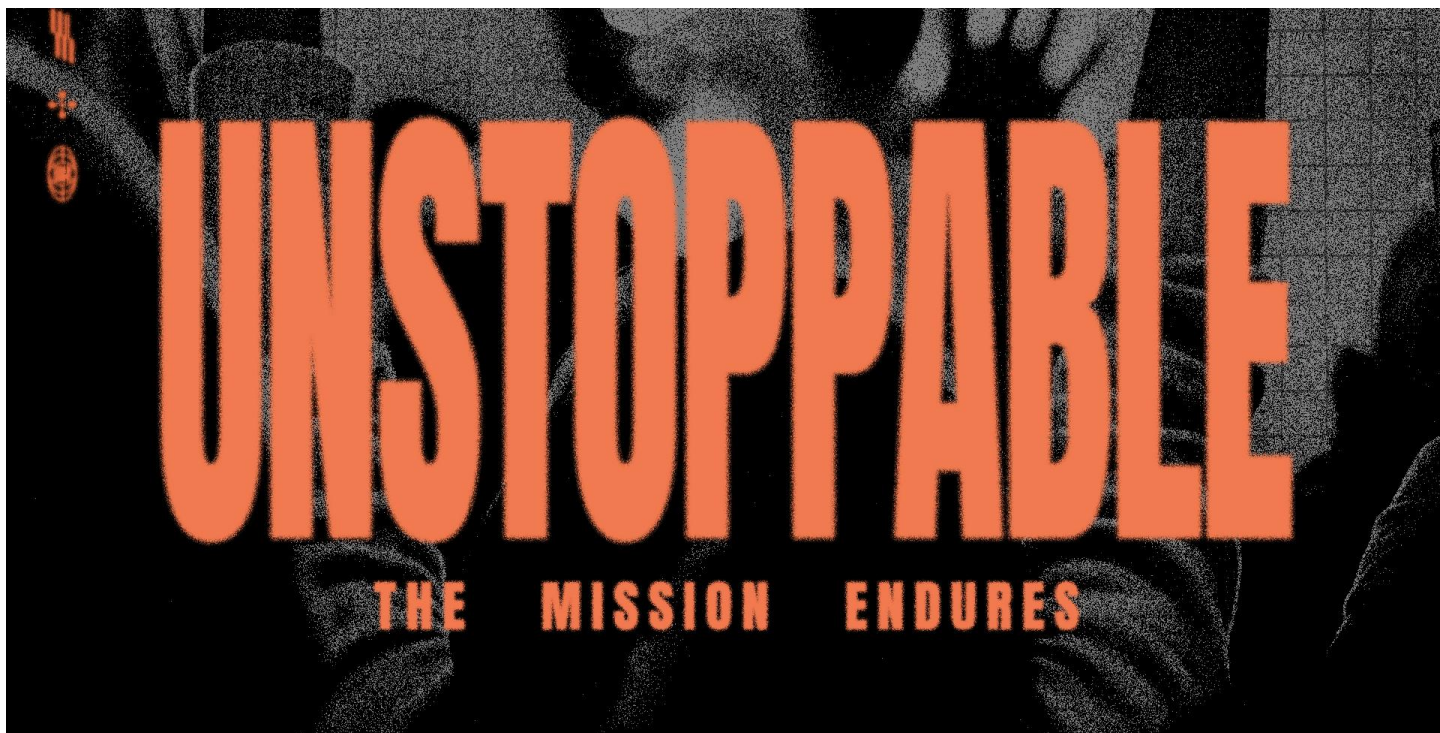




Week 25: Take Courage

Following Jesus doesn't make life easier—sometimes it leads to greater opposition. In Acts 22–23, Paul faithfully shares his story, stands firm in the face of rejection, and endures increasing hardship, yet he is exactly where God wants him to be. At the center of the story, Jesus appears to Paul with a simple but powerful message: "Take courage." He reminds Paul of His presence and His purpose. The same is true for us. No matter what we face we can take courage—not because we know what lies ahead, but because we know the One who walks with us.

Discussion Questions:

1. Paul remained faithful even as following Jesus made his life more difficult. Have you ever experienced opposition, disappointment, or hardship because of your faith? How did it affect your walk with God?
2. Paul openly shared every part of his story—even the parts he wasn't proud of. Is there any part of your testimony that you've been hesitant to share? Why do you think we often want to hide those chapters?
3. Jesus told Paul, "**Take courage,**" but He didn't explain everything that was happening. Why do you think we often want explanations from God more than His presence? What would it look like to trust His presence even without all the answers?
4. The message challenged us not to mistake opposition for God's absence. How can we discern the difference between difficult circumstances that come from faithfully following Jesus and those that result from our own poor choices?
5. The sermon ended with the picture of living "between Jerusalem and Rome"—walking through a season where you don't know exactly where God is leading. Where do you feel "in between" right now, and what would it look like for you to take courage and trust Jesus in that season this week?