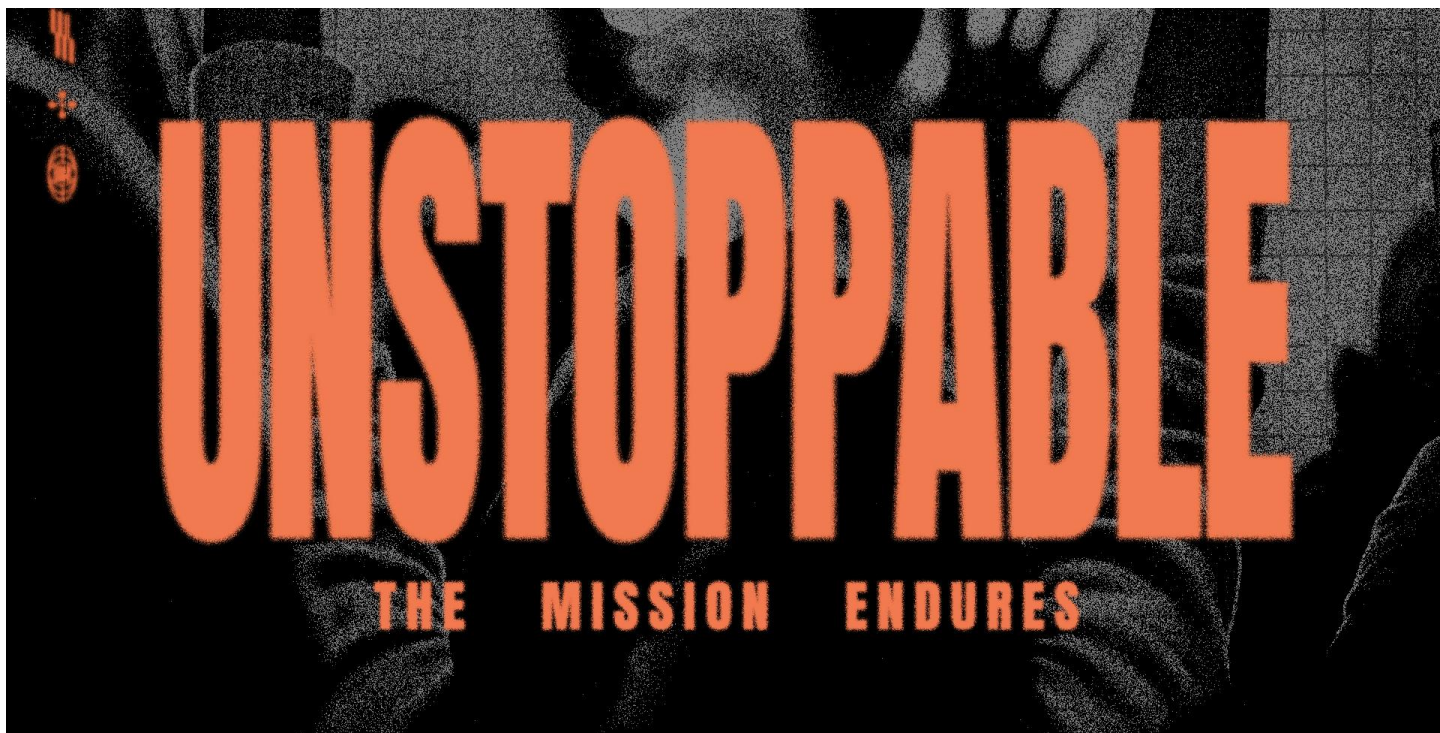




Week 26: Responding Like Jesus

Following Jesus does not give us control over our circumstances, but it changes how we respond to them. In Acts 24–25, Paul is falsely accused, imprisoned, and repeatedly placed on trial before powerful leaders. Yet while those around him are driven by fear, greed, and political pressure, Paul responds with truth, courage, and faithfulness. His circumstances do not create his character, they reveal the kind of person he has become through walking with Jesus. The same is true for us. How we respond reveals what we trust, who we are becoming, and what matters most to us. As we spend time with Jesus, the Holy Spirit forms us into people who can remain faithful, even when life does not go the way we hoped.

Discussion Questions:

1. When circumstances are outside your control, what does your usual response reveal about where you place your trust?
2. Paul defended himself without becoming defensive. What might it look like for you to respond with both truth and grace when you feel misunderstood or falsely accused?
3. What habits, relationships, or influences are shaping who you are becoming right now? Are they forming you to become more like Jesus?
4. Paul remained faithful even when obedience threatened his comfort, freedom, and reputation. What might God be asking you to surrender in order to remain faithful?
5. Think about a difficult situation you are currently facing. How might your response change if your first question became, “How can I be faithful here?” rather than, “How can I get out of this?”