

## GO BIG OR GO HOME!

(Part 2: Living a Passionate Life)

### Opening Prayer, Confession of Faith & Worship

#### Big Idea:

Are you living a passionate life? In other words, do you live your life from a position of fear or from a position of faith? True faith in Christ will be passionately expressed – it can't be contained.

#### Summary:

"The glory of God is a man fully alive." Passion matters to God, and Jesus pointed out the importance of passion when he rebuked the church in Laodecia for lacking passion by being "neither hot nor cold." We are called to make a decision. Playing both sides of the fence is the antithesis of passion. It is the definition of "playing it safe" – not wanting to go all-in. For the Christian, it is actually a position of fear rather than of faith. Fear kills passion and renders us ineffective. We see in Judges 7:3 how God told Gideon to release those soldiers who were fearful. Twenty-two thousand went home that day. They left the fight. Their fear was greater than their faith. A lack of passion eliminated them from the battle and they missed out on the victory.

People living with passion can make history. They can change the world. The early church grew because of passion. The early Christians poured out their best for Christ. They gave their all – their lives. They lived passionately for their Savior and Christianity spread throughout the entire world. Jesus lived a passionate life. He was passionate for God and for people. He only did the will of His Father and He went all the way with it. No short cuts. No compromises. No riding the fence with Jesus. He was all-in and that changed everything for all eternity. Are you all-in? If you answered yes, then jump off of the fence, cast off fear, submit wholly to the will of God, and live the passionate life.

#### Discussion Questions: (read the Scripture & discuss)

##### John 12:42-43

What killed their passion? Discuss things that keep us from living passionately for God (examples: pride, selfishness, desire for comfort and stuff, reputation or personal gratification)

##### Revelation 3:15-16

What does Jesus think about us riding the fence with one foot in the His camp and the other foot in the world? Give examples of how we might be riding the fence.

##### Matthew 14:25-31

Why did Peter have the confidence to walk on the water to Jesus? What caused Peter to sink? Discuss how Peter's experience can be applied to our lives.

**Taking Action:** Go big this week. In your personal prayer time, ask God to reveal areas where you are "riding the fence" because of fear. Submit those areas to His Lordship. Confidently step out with faith and passion to follow God's leading.

#### Ministry Time