

"I'm doing something for God! So, I'm sure everything is going to work out." - a person about to be surprised Substantive faith faces human ruthlessness with gracious boldness.

1. Human ruthlessness can never throw us, because it should never surprise us.







2. Offer bold graciousness to the broken oppressor

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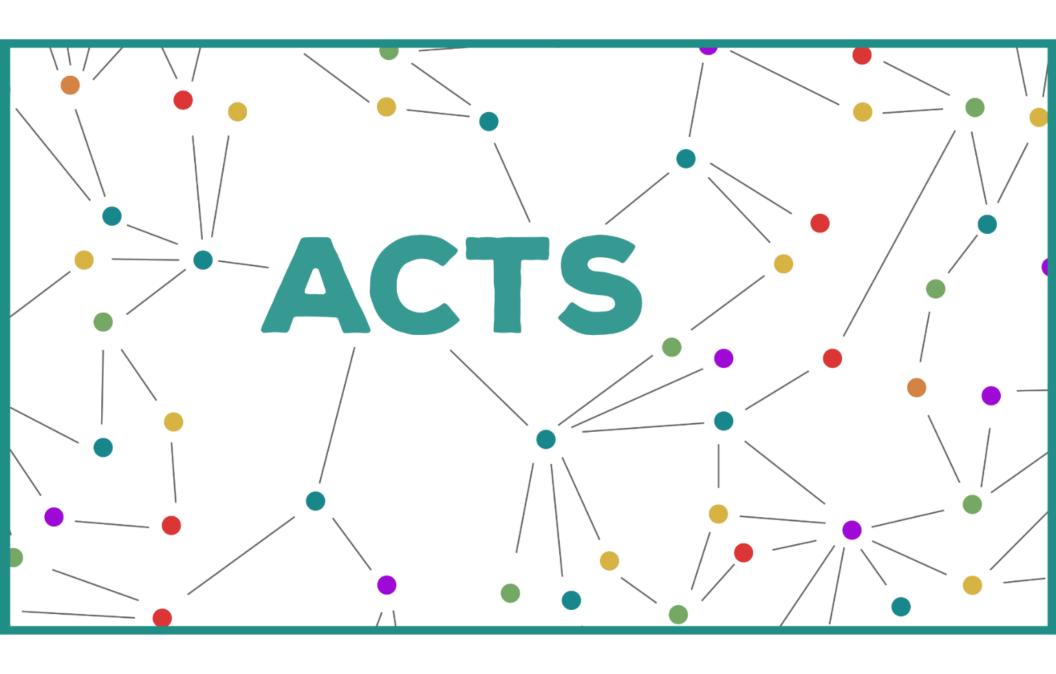
3. Offer gracious boldness to the unrepentantly abusive and unjust











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2 Corinthians 2:15-16

For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life. And who is equal to such a task?

Substantive faith faces human ruthlessness with gracious boldness.

Romans 1:28-3

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### Romans 1:28-32

Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done...they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

### 6 examples of Human Ruthlessness:

- 1. Slave Girl- Demonic hold
- 2. Slave Girl's Owners- Money idol
- 3. Magistrates- Loved order and local privilege
- 4. Officers- Trusted in the chain of command
- 5. Jailer- Secures the prisoners to secure his place and safety
- 6. The Crowd- Joined in as a mob in hatred of unknown foreigners

### John 15:20-21

Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' *If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also*. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the One who sent me.

#### 1 Peter 4:12-13

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

When you aren't surprised by human ruthlessness, you can respond to it better.

(in yourself, as well as others.)

Acto 1/020-21

About midmight Paul and Silvas vene proying and singling harms to Cast, and the other process vere lightning to them. 20 Septimity for was 50,00 a select carriagolate 160, the foundations of the prison were bridges. A rome of the prison does been groun under carrystedy's claims some books. 27 The jate's water put years of the prison does go the water put years of the prison of the prison of water put years of the prison of the prison of white put years and may allow to full himself because the flower the prison of the prison of the flower the prison of the prison of the flower the prison of the flower the prison of the flower the prison of the prison of the prison of the flower the prison of the priso

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### Acts 16:25-27

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. 26 Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose. 27 The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped.

1. not just grace- Immediate and bold grace

No one will ever believe us that God is a God of costly forgiveness unless we are consistently a people of costly forgiveness.

2. It can't be about your personal sense of injustice.

are you nice because you're loving, or is being thought nice your idol?

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## 3. Offer gracious boldness to the unrepentantly abusive and unjust

Who is the Roman Clazen here?

Treason Irony
The action of the law The accuse was the most unlawful find true Roll for the true Roll.

Why fight?

Lydia and the chalds A public place for the Gos



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## ac·qui·es·cence

/ˌakwēˈesəns/ •

noun

the reluctant acceptance of something without protest. "in silent acquiescence, she rose to her feet"

## as-ser-tive

/əˈsərdiv/

adjective

having or showing a confident and forceful personality. "patients should be more assertive with their doctors"

### Who is the Roman Citizen here?

## Treason

The action of the law was the most unlawful thing possible

## Irony

The accused anti-roman was the true Roman

## Why fight?

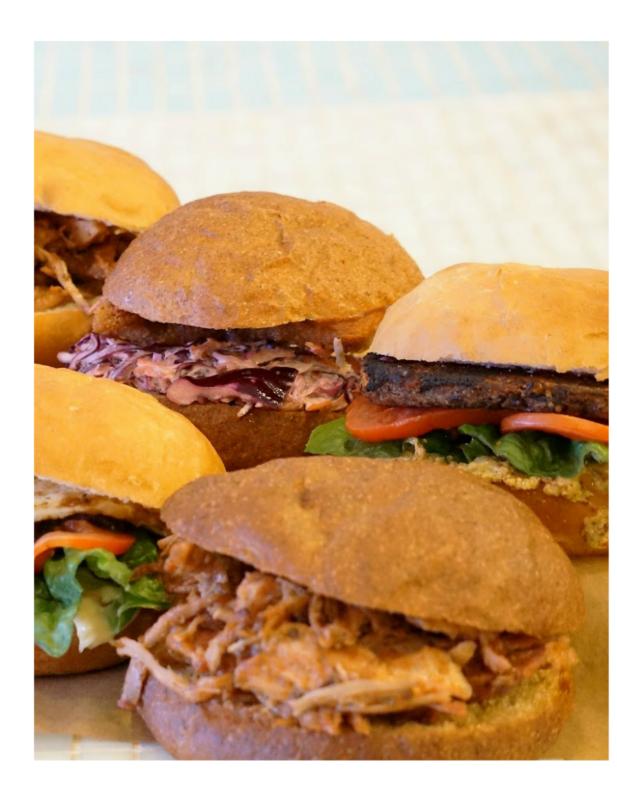
Lydia and the church

A public place for the Gospel

### Lunches

The Public Good

The Fight for the Gospel



# Gracious boldness can never be our own ruthlessness

How far could Paul have taken it?

