

MOMENTUM BUILDERS

DIGGING INTO THE HEART OF THE MESSAGE.

JEFF BOGUE

"BUT YOU HOWEVER"

Jeff Bogue wraps up the "I Am Second" Momentum Youth Conference with a sobering look at youth culture and what it means to follow Jesus daily. He encourages us to crave the Word and cling to what is right.

MESSAGE OPENER: "In A.D. 320. Emperor Licinius commanded all soldiers to offer a sacrifice to his pagan god. Forty of the soldiers were followers of Christ, and they refused. 'You can have our armor and even our bodies, but our hearts' allegiance belongs to Jesus Christ,' they said.

"The emperor decided to make an example of the soldiers, so in the middle of winter he marched them onto a frozen lake and stripped them of their clothes. 'Renounce your God and you will be spared from death,' he told them. Not one man came forward. So he left them there, huddled together to contemplate his offer. Throughout the night the man stayed together, singing their song of victory: Forty Martyrs for Christ. When morning came, thirty-nine of the men had frozen to death. The one survivor finally relented and crawled to safety, recanting his confession of faith in order to live. The officer in charge that night had been so moved by the scene that during his watch he'd come to Jesus, so he broke rank and walked out onto the ice. Stripping his clothes he openly confessed his faith in Christ. The furious emperor demanded that he renounce Jesus, but he refused. When the ordeal was over, the Roman soldiers carried forty frozen men off of the ice."

(Text Illustration shared by David Tack, Sounds Of Joy Ministries: Ref: Lahaye, Tim, Jerry B. Jenkins and Frank M. Martin ed., Embracing Eternity, Living Each Day With a Heart Toward Heaven: The Persecuted, Matthew 5:10- February 15. Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, 2004.) <http://www.sermoncentral.com/illustrations/sermon-illustration-david-tack-stories-persecution-80962.asp>

READ: 2 Timothy 2:22-3:1-17

WATCH: Jeff Bogue—Momentum 2013. 43 Minutes. <http://onmissioninsights.com/ButYouHowever>

KEY POINTS:

You have to live second. If you want to be impactful in this life, you must be "less I" and more "I Am." Instead, pursue righteousness, faith, peace. And as you interact with opponents, do so with love and truth.

"You, however..." Anyone who wants to live a godly life—will be persecuted. Paul's challenge to Timothy was to live a life that would be different. "You, however..." meant there was a distinct call to live differently, even if the price is persecution.

"But as for you..." Continue in what you have learned. This means that you must cling to truth. You must make it yours, you must own it daily. You must crave the Word of God—for it is the only thing which holds fast.

CLOSING CHALLENGES:

What God says is terrible, we think as typical. Our music, media, hallways of high schools, and even youth groups—it is typical that we would put ourselves first. Take a moment to do a heart check. Are we boastful, proud, arrogant? Are we disobedient to our parents? Have these behaviors become typical for us to observe or even practice?

A form of godliness, but in denial the power of the Gospel. Many lie and say God is there for you instead of you being there for God. How would you know if you had been lied to and been sold a watered down version of self-centered "faith?" Has this mindset crept into your heart? What re-alignment do you need for your mind or heart?

Your utmost call. "Preach the Word"—You have to know the Word to preach it. "Be prepared in season and out of it." "Correct, rebuke with great patience." "Endure hardship." "Do the work of an evangelist." "Discharge all the work of your ministry." These are high calling statements, straight from the Word. These are vital to following Christ. When you look at this list, how can you prepare to enact them? What can you enact today? In what areas of your life do you need to get more serious to meet these calls?