

“Serving Leftovers to a Holy God”
CRAZY LOVE¹ – Chapter 5
LUKE 14:33

LESS IS OFTEN MORE

1. Francis Chan’s chapter title, “Serving **Leftovers** to a Holy God,” implies we would be holding back our **best** for another purpose.
2. Here are some other thought-provoking quotes from this chapter of Francis Chan’s book:
 - ◆ “Many of us believe we have as **much** of **God** as we want right now, a reasonable portion of God among all the other things in our lives.” (p. 96)
 - ◆ “God is not someone who can be **tacked** on to our **lives**.” (p. 96)
 - ◆ “We **disgust** God when we weigh and compare **Him** against the things of this world.” (p. 97)
3. The more I contemplate eternity with God and being a tool in His hand on earth, the **less** I **want**, or need, in this **world** (Luke 18:22-24).

KEY THOUGHT: I have agreed with God to stop calling it “a busy schedule” or “bills” or “fatigue” and simply own what I do as a function of my **priorities** (Proverbs 21:2).

*“Our greatest fear as individuals and as a church should not be of failure out of **succeeding** at things in life that **really** do not **matter**.”*

Tim Kizziar

I. CRAZY LOVE FOR GOD DEMANDS A RADICAL CHANGE IN THINKING (LUKE 14:33).

- A. My life as a Christian should provide evidence of an “**exuberant**” faith (James 2:17).
 1. My **decisions** in life should reflect **God’s priorities** for my Christian life (Luke 14:33).
 2. God is not as concerned with my biblical knowledge as with the **depth** of my **love** for Him (1 John 2:3-4).

¹ Crazy Love, by Francis Chan; Publisher: David C. Cook, © 2008

B. It is my **responsibility** to stay focused on my relationship with God and serving Him (Hosea 13:6).

1. God's **passions** must be **mine** (Luke 19:10; Col. 1:28, 29).

2. I am responsible for maintaining **balance** in my Christian life (Heb. 10:24-25).

◆ “Stimulate one another” – regular Christian **fellowship**

◆ “Love and good deeds” – ministry **outside** the church to the **community**

◆ “Exhorting one another” – encouragement and **discipleship**

◆ “Bring all the tithes into the storehouse” – **returning** resources for the ministry of the church (Malachi 3:10)

KEY THOUGHT: I want to be a Christian who bears “**much fruit**” (John 15:5).

II. MY LORD DEMANDS CRAZY **COMMITMENT TO EVIDENCE MY CRAZY LOVE** (MATTHEW 10:38-39).

A. The mention of the cross evokes a picture of a violent, **raw death** (Matt. 10:38).

1. This demand for total commitment by Jesus receives “**push-back**” from my selfish nature.

2. Can I reconcile and justify an “**easier**” Christianity to make me feel better when I am **disobedient**?

B. I **want** to **be** appealing and pleasing to my Lord God (Rev. 3:15-16; Matt. 25:23).

KEY THOUGHT: “Exuberant” faith means holding **nothing back** (James 2:18, 21-22).

FOR FURTHER STUDY AND PERSONAL GROWTH

April 25, 2010

SUNDAY: ***I have agreed with God to “own” what I do as a function of my priorities (Prov. 21:2)! It is important that each Christian look honestly at his life with the Lord to see if he is giving his best to the Lord. Francis Chan challenges us all not to give our “leftovers to God”. The more that I contemplate being with God for all of eternity and the privilege of being His tool here on earth, the less I feel I need, or want, in this world. The saying is really true for me spiritually, “less is more” (Luke 18:22-24). The result is that I have agreed with God to stop making excuses for a ‘busy schedule’, or “bills”, or “fatigue” and simply own my decisions as a functions of my priorities (Prov. 21:2). Commit to living your Christian life in the first person with God and stop rationalizing your sinful actions. Ask for the Holy Spirit’s help to set new, more scriptural priorities. **May such an honest reaction concerning your behavior made before God bring a greater intimacy with Him!*****

MONDAY: ***My faith should demonstrate my exuberant love for God (James 2:17)! Cultivating a Crazy Love for God demands a radical change in my thinking. An exuberant love for God will result in an exuberant faith being lived out before others. My decisions in life should reflect God’s priorities for my Christian life (Luke 14:33). It is crucial to remember that God is not as concerned with the level of my biblical knowledge as with the depth of my love for Him (1 John 2:3-4). Consider making a list of the activities that keep you from being obedient to God’s call in your life. This list may have items like relationships, hobbies, sports, television, or career advancement to name a few potentially offending items. Ask the Lord to help you construct new priorities and boundaries around your favorite activities from becoming a spiritual distraction. Seek help bringing balance between your personal activities and your work in God’s kingdom. **May your conversation with the Lord bring new maturity and wisdom into your spiritual life!*****

TUESDAY: ***It is my responsibility to remained focused on God (Heb. 10:24-25)! It is important to be careful after the Lord has blessed you. It is tempting to become proud of what you have received from God, begin to drift from Him, or actually forget Him for a short while (Hosea 3:16). One way to guard against drifting away in your relationship with the Lord is to make God’s passions become your own (Luke 19:10; Col. 1:28-29). It is my responsibility to stay focused on my relationship with God and serve Him (Heb. 10:24-25). The things that will help me are regular Christian fellowship with accountability, ministry in the community, encouragement and discipleship, and the consistent surrender of material resources through tithing (Mal. 3:10). Pray and tell the Lord you accept your responsibilities to keep your relationship with Him strong. Ask for partners in the faith and ministry that will hold you accountable for your spiritual depth and life. **May your brokenness over your sin and the joy of your forgiveness keep you humbled enough to keep your focus on the Lord!*****

WEDNESDAY: ***I desire to bear much fruit for God (John 15:5)! John writes about the Christian “abiding” in Christ. To abide means to “remain” and to “stay” in Christ. This devotion to Christ is evidence that salvation has already occurred. The fruit of your salvation is the continuance of service to Him and obedience to His teaching (John 8:31).***

To bear fruit is descriptive of diligent work in the kingdom of God and obedience to the scriptures. To bear “much fruit” indicates an ongoing, consistent level of dedication and work, building the kingdom of God that can only be sustained because of an intimate, *Crazy Love* for the Lord Jesus. Apart from our relationship with Jesus, there is absolutely nothing that can be accomplished in this life that has eternal value. Pray for your love for Jesus to deepen. Seek to remove obstacles that will prevent you from being with Him every day and throughout the day. ***May this study of a passionate love for Jesus become one you can revisit over and over to maintain a constant fire in your heart for your Lord!***

THURSDAY: ***Jesus demands total commitment from His disciples (Matt. 10:38)!*** A form of Christianity has arisen in the world today that asks the question, “*Can I go to heaven without truly and faithfully loving Jesus?*” The mention of the cross by Jesus should evoke a picture of a stark reality of raw commitment that is all or nothing (Matt. 10:38-39). Unfortunately, this demand for total commitment by Jesus receives “push-back” from my selfish nature. Can I reconcile and justify an “easier” Christianity to make me feel better when I am disobedient? Jesus says, “Any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciples” (Luke 14:33). Each Christian has lukewarm elements and practices in his life. Yet, the amazing grace of God is still extended to cover our sin and save us for an eternity. Will each of us decide to abide in Him while still here on earth? Ask the Lord to point out clearly the issue that has prevented you from making the commitment to love Him deeply. ***May this be a key step in your spiritual life and the next step in your work to build the kingdom of God!***

FRIDAY: ***I want to glorify and please my Lord (Rev. 3:15-16; Matt. 25:23)!*** The last thing that any fervent believer would want is to be set aside by the Lord for his lack of faithfulness and the absence of commitment (Rev. 3:15-16). Such judgment by the Lord would be tragic in any Christian’s life. Rather the words every Christian desires to hear are, “Well done, [My] good and faithful servant, . . . enter into the joy of your Lord” (Matt. 25:23). However, wishing to hear these words from Jesus will not make it happen. Cultivating a *Crazy Love* for Him that motivates you to love Him with all your heart, all your mind, and all your soul will bring that about. *Crazy Love* is evidenced by faithful work to build the kingdom of God. Pray today about where you can begin working to help build the kingdom of God. Set aside time to cultivate your intimate relationship with the Lord that will provide you the passion and strength to be faithful over time. ***May you determine a way to keep studying the topic of Crazy Love after this study is completed!***

SATURDAY: ***I will hold nothing back in my relationship with God (James 2:18, 21-22)!*** As we have said before, each Christian has lukewarm elements and practices in his life. Yet we know that Jesus’ call to commitment is clear: He wants all or nothing (Luke 14:33). This means that nothing is off-limits to the Lord in your life. Total commitment is best emphasized by faithfully being involved in the kingdom of God (James 2:18). Words by themselves are empty if they are not backed by faithful action to build the kingdom of God (James 2:21-22). Faith and action woven in concert in your life bring passion and productivity for the kingdom of God! Ask the Lord for the strength to be more faithful than ever before, and ask any pastor or church leader where you can help. ***May the Lord bless your efforts to help with building the kingdom of God!***