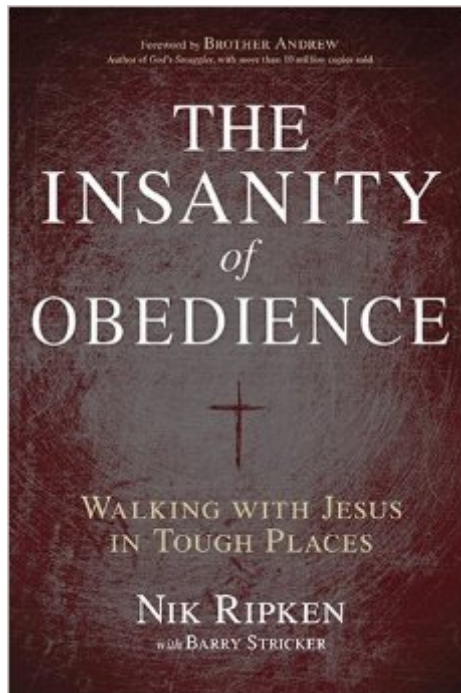


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The Insanity Of Obedience: Walking With Jesus In Tough Places



Synopsis

Wise Sheep Among the Wolves All Christian disciples have one thing in common: as they carry the gospel across the ocean and across the street, persecution will become the norm for those who choose to follow Jesus. How believers respond in the face of persecution reveals everything about their level of faith and obedience. *The Insanity of Obedience* is a bold challenge to global discipleship. Nik Ripken exposes the danger of safe Christianity and calls readers to something greater. *The Insanity of Obedience* challenges Christians in the same, provocative way that Jesus did. This book dares you "and prepares you" to cross the street and the oceans with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Some of Jesus' instructions sound uncomfortable and are potentially dangerous. We may be initially encouraged by His declaration, "I am sending you out." But how are we to respond when He then tells us that He is sending us out "like sheep among wolves"? In light of the words of Jesus, how can modern day believers rest comfortably in the status quo? How can we embrace casual faith in light of the radical commands of Jesus which are anything but casual? Ripken brings decades of ministry experience in some of the most persecuted areas of the world to bear on our understanding of faith in Jesus. *The Insanity of Obedience* is a call to roll up your sleeves . . . and to follow and partner with Jesus in the toughest places on this planet. "We have the high privilege of answering Jesus' call to go," Ripken says. "But let us be clear about this: we go on His terms, not ours. If we go at all, we go as sheep among wolves." "Jesus gives us Himself." And He gives us the tools necessary for those who dare to journey with Him.

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Customer Reviews

The Insanity of Obedience is companion piece to Ripken's previous work, The Insanity of God. Although the two works cover some of the same ground, each book deserves a reading. The Ripken's felt called by God to go overseas as missionaries. When they responded to that call, they had no idea that they would eventually end up working in Somalia. In that lawless land, their faith took a major nose dive. Their losses were huge. Eventually they came home wounded emotionally and spiritually with a huge question mark hanging over their heads: can faith survive under intense persecution? They set out on a quest to find the answer to that question, eventually interviewing 600 Christians who had endured under some form of persecution. That is the subject of Ripken's first book. His second one, The Insanity of Obedience examines what it looks like to go out as sheep among wolves and gives story after story on how to carry out the Great Commission - even when obedience looks crazy from a human perspective.

Having read Nik Ripkens' other book, The insanity of God, and now this one I could not give it a higher recommendation. I am an avid reader but also a finicky reader. I hope that this book will both challenge and enlighten the next reader as it has done to me. It is by no means an easy read in regards to the way Nik enlightens the church on the concept and reality of those who are being persecuted and those who are put to death for the Lord. I do hope this book will be placed in all the libraries of all the churches worldwide as well as in every seminary. The church in the west needs to hear how other parts of the body of Christ are handling the choice they make, when they choose to follow The Lord Jesus Christ. May the Lord continue to challenge us as we grow in Him. Your brother in Christ, Albert R.

Love the perspective of this book compared to The Insanity of God. Rather than tell Nik's story, this book puts us in his mind as he grapples with the meaning of the Great Commission. No, it is not a re-hashing of the same material. This book has a different, more practical perspective.

You will be shocked how American Christianity is woefully lacking with practical survival skills in evangelism, faithfulness and spirituality. I found I am so far behind the brothers and sisters living in persecution, that I am horrified. I am even more horrified to see that our institutionalized Christian ways are not good arenas for nurturing the growth of any of the above three areas. I don't know if the American church could survive vicious, unrelenting and continual persecution. We have much, much to learn from our persecuted brothers and sisters in Iran, Iraq, China, Russia, Somalia and

other places. If you want to learn how to truly walk in the Spirit, read this book then fall on your knees to beg God to teach you how to follow Him.

This book is an apologetic (best word I could come up with) concerning the reasons why Christians should be involved in persecuted countries. I think this book would be a great read if you were considering the possibility of going to a persecuted country. Otherwise, it seems to lay the guilt down pretty heavy if you decide you want to stay in the comfort of the States and minister. I understand his perspective, but I think a better book along these same lines is Radical by David Platt. He sends the same message without the "If you don't go to a persecuted country, you're less than others who do" mantra. The author does make some excellent points about evangelism and the need for courage in missions which I totally agree with. Again, these are better said in other books, in my opinion. If you're looking for a sequel to Nik Ripken's first book, The Insanity of God, (which is what I was doing), you'll probably be disappointed. This is not the same kind of book.

Nik Ripken has shared an amazing look at persecution and the attitudes of the persecuted. Their response to persecution is nothing like I thought it would be and has changed my attitude toward Christianity in the States. Every Christian should read this book. God's church in the USA would be better for it.

This is an excellent read, stirring the heart, the mind and the soul. I highly recommend this book to anyone truly seeking to live their lives following Christ.

this is a terrific book for those who are committed to walking as Jesus walked through this life with many challenges. It is the second book I have read from this most dedicated traveler and seeker of truth. The first book, The Insanity of God, should be on every Christian bookshelf, better yet, right by your reading place, well read and prayed over. Life is not easy and they have sought to bring the reading to the very heart of God.

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