

**Series: The Unstoppable Church (7/8/18)**

**Title: A Crisis Opportunity**

The Chinese symbols for "crisis" are identical to those for the word "opportunity."

*“An incipient moment; crucial point (when something begins or changes).”*

Literally translated it reads *“Crisis is an opportunity riding the dangerous wind.”*

If we will look at every Crisis through the eye of God, we will see there is an opportunity in each one.

***Christ’s Unstoppable Church was not w/o it’s problems.***

Every difficulty the FBCJ faced was used as a Springboard by God for them grow even more.

(Acts 6:1-4) **The Problem was Growing Pains:**

Explain Physical Growing Pains.

Explain Spiritual Growing Pains.

Explain Family Growing Pains.

Explain Church Growing Pains.

Where there is Life, there is Growth (Vs 1)

Days of revival.

# of Disciples was Multiplied.

No longer addition, but Multiplication.

If a Church is surrounded by lost people, it needs to be growing.

A dead church has cobwebs in the Baptistry.

Glow and Grow, or Dry and Die.

It will Evangelize or it will Fossilize.

Growth is not easy, Growth is not Automatic.

It takes a Plan, Effort, Work.

Spiritual Effort brings Spiritual Growth.

Spiritual Growth brings Numerical Growth.

*Some might say: “**God isn’t interested in numbers!**”*

**You sure about that? 7 References in Acts.**

(Acts 6:1) *when the Number of the Disciples were multiplied.*

He has an entire book with the name NUMBERS.

Where there is Numerical Growth, there is problems.

*Illus: 30 people-30 problems; 100 people-100*

*problems. **How many do you think we have now?***

(Acts 6:1) *And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations.*

Grecians were Hellenistic Jews-spoke Greek language

There is no indication of intentional offenses.  
They were growing so fast, everybody was doing all they could to keep up with the baby believers popping up all over.

It wasn't that the Apostles weren't doing the work,  
Or didn't want to the work,  
The church had grown so fast they couldn't keep up.  
These were just overlooked.  
The problem was real.

***The problem was not caused by sin, but HOW they went about handling it WAS SIN.***

***(Acts 6:1) And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations.***

***Murmuring-*** Complaining to other church members rather than speaking to the leadership.

***Murmuring will Kill Christ's Unstoppable Church by disconnecting the people from the Preacher.***

When God Multiplies, the Devil Sets out to Divide!  
(2 Cor 2:11) *Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.*

When the Devil sees a growing church, he tries to divide it.

***Murmuring:*** A 1/2 Uttered-1/2 Concealed Complaint.  
Not that the person comes out & out, and speaks to the Right Person, at the Right Time, with the Right Spirit for the Right Reason so that the Right thing might be done.

***Murmurer can happen when we only see the crisis from our point of view.***

*"That Pastor, He never has time for me."*

My phone blew up on Friday, While under anesthesia with a camera hanging out my rectum, can I call you back later?

***Trust ME! No matter what you have been told, you only have 1/2 the Story. So TRUST ME!***

(Jer 18:18) They had stop listening to Jeremiah.  
They stopped following.

***If you will give me the benefit of the doubt that you don't have the whole story, I will give you the Benefit of the Doubt that I don't have the whole story.***

***Murmuring will Kill Christ's Unstoppable Church by disconnecting the people from the Preacher.***

The Devil is always at work dividing the people from their Preacher!

***YOUR Tongue*** has the ability to turn people's heart to the Lord or turn their heart from the Lord.

**Murmuring will Kill Christ's Unstoppable Church by disconnecting the Preacher from the People.**

***Jeremiah Faced Murmuring: (Jer 18:19)***

Why had they stopped listening to Him?

Had Jeremiah been Disloyal, like they were? No He was on their team. He's not the one that left.

Jeremiah was the one striving in Prayer for them

(Jer 18:20) Murmuring hurt the heart of their preacher  
Jeremiah was discouraged.

(Jer 18:21) Jeremiah got so discouraged:

He prayed. "OK God, let them have it!"

Instead of praying for their welfare, Jeremiah asked God to destroy with the consequences of their sin.

**(Heb 13:17) Obey them that have the rule over you, & submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account (I will face God @ it)**

***that they may do it with joy, and not with grief:***

(Its discouraging when you make judgements based on 1/2 the story)

It tells me that you don't really want me here. And if you don't, You can show up at the business meeting and vote me out.

***for that is unprofitable for you.***

*Experience is the BEST teacher if your are TOO Stubborn to Learn any other way.*

Instead of praying for your welfare, I end up asking God to hammer your hard hearts with the consequences of your sin so He can bless you!

**Murmuring will Kill Christ's Unstoppable Church by Incurring God's Judgement.**

***Murmuring is a Horrible Sin: - DON'T DO IT.***

(Phil 2:14) *Do all things w/o murmurings& disputing*

***Murmuring: You're really speaking against God!***

(Ex 16:8) "The LORD heareth your murmurings which ye murmur against him: and what are we? your murmurings are not against us, but against the LORD

Teens, If you Murmur against your **Parents**,  
Your Murmuring against **God**.

Teens, If you Murmur against your **Teachers**,  
Your Murmuring against **God**.

Employees, If you Murmur against your **Employer**,  
Your Murmuring against **God**.

If you Murmur against your **Pastor**,  
Your Murmuring against **God**.

***Murmuring will Kill Christ's Unstoppable Church!***

Murmuring is never God's way of Addressing a problem, Its the Devils way to divid a church.  
(Phil 2:14) *Do all things w/o murmurings& disputings*

(1 Cor 10:7-10) God ranks Murmuring with Idolatry, Fornication, and Tempting God.

**HOLD ON!**

*It's not as though they didn't have legitimate concerns*

**They did have a legitimate Concerns:**

But Look how the Devil used them to try to do a right thing in the wrong way.

*(Acts 6:1) And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations.*

**Remember:** Where there is Growth, there is problems.

People + Progress = Problems

The Problem was *Not Doctrinal* but **Functional**.

The Problem was *Not Primary*, but **Petty**.

***Not that it wasn't important.***

The Devil is Better at getting us to divide over the Incidental rather than the Fundamental things.

**Where There is Healthy Life, There Is Growth**

**Where There Is Growth, There Are Problems**

Anything that moves Makes Friction.

Anything that Grows has Pains.

***I would rather be a part of a growing church with problems than a dead church without any.***

**Murmuring comes from a sinful Attitude of the Heart**

**My first Question is, "What are you guys doing?"**

*(Acts 6:1) And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations.*

**You Got The Vision, You Got The Call!**

You See the Problem, You need to see that as a Divine calling from God on you to Get involved & Fix it

**Are you familiar with the 80/20 Rule?**

***80% of Everything gets done by 20% of the people.***

***20% of the people do 80% of the tithing.***

The total financial giving of 80% of you, makes up only 20% church's budget.

20% of the people actually give God a tithe, & that makes up 80% of the church's monthly budget.

The tithe is the Lord's. Your Robbing God!

He will get it, why not give & be blessed?

You are to give the Lord 10% of your gross income as a sign of worship.

You like having a building? Thank a Tither!

You like having A/C & Heat? Thank a Tither!

You like having a Pastor? Thank a Tither!

***20% of the people do 80% of the Serving @ FBCK.***

You like having Sunday School? Thank a Teacher!

“ “ Monthly Fellowships? Thank a Worker!  
“ “ Awana? Thank a Worker!

***Instead of Murmuring & Complaining, GET BUSY!***  
80% don't Serve, Don't Sing, Don't Participate!  
Many hands make lite work!

***I am shocked how people think! Here is an Example!***  
VBS is not My Wife's pet project.  
It is the FBCK's Community Outreach Event.  
VBS is not the Members Free Baby Sitting Service.  
It is the FBCK's Community Outreach Event.

If you think that you can skip it b/c you don't work in children's ministries, then you don't understand what church membership means.

If you are focussing on the ***HOLES*** in the wall made by the decorations more than the lost ***SOULS*** to be saved, your' missing the point of this church.

We are to be ***Fishers of Men***, NOT the ***Keepers of the Aquarium***.

Murmuring is an outgrowth of a prideful heart.

**Where there are Problems, There are Solutions:**

(Acts 6:) *Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.*

“Reason” - This doesn't make sense.

**That's Not My Job**

This is a story about 4 people:

Everybody, Somebody, Anybody & Nobody.  
There was an important job to be done & Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it.  
Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it.  
Somebody got angry about that, b/c it was Everybody's job.  
Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it.  
It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have.

**What Kills Christ's Unstoppable Church?**

Monday Morning Murmuring from a Sunday Service Sitter about how the Minister is Missing the Mark!

***The Devil is Smart,***

In Life, we rarely have to choose between Good/Bad. Its choosing between Good and Best.

**God Gave them a Plan to meet the Need:** (Acts 6:3)

The Plan was to get better Organized.

***They would Organize a 2 pronged approach:***

- #1 A Scriptural Ministry
- #2 A Practical Ministry

***Some don't believe in Organization***-too business like.  
The lack of Organization & Planning is Carnality.  
(1Cor14:40) *Let all things be done decently& in order*  
The reason for Disorder in FBCC, was carnality.

**NO! The Church is not a business.**

The Church is a Holy Spirit directed Ministry that is  
run similar to a Business,  
The State sees us as a Business, but it is a Business  
that is run as a Holy Spirit directed Ministry.

When the Holy Spirit is moving, He is bringing order!

**1st Reference to the Holy Spirit.** (Gen 1:2) *And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.*

***Bringing order out of Chaos.***

***They would Organize a 2 pronged approach:***

**#1 A Scriptural Ministry:** (Acts 6:2)

It was not that they were TOO good to the work:  
Its not that they would free FROM work, but free TO  
Work.

***5 people today asked me: What did you do this week?***

1 Spent 1 hour this week cutting weeds, which led to  
4 hours messing around with the Doctor to get a RX  
for a Rash. (Couldn't 1 of you 80% done that?)

1 Spent 4 hours this week installing cabinets in the  
office. (Couldn't 1 of you 80% done that?)

I spent 20 hours this week decorating for VBS.  
(Couldn't you 80% jumped in on a piece of that.)  
*Everybody Assumed that Somebody would do what  
Anybody could have, but nobody did.*

***I Appreciate all those who did help, BUT***

I did 29 hours of something you could have done,  
instead of doing what you desperately needed me to  
be doing for you.

I am getting behind in My in my Bible Study.

I am getting behind in My Sermon Prep.

I am getting behind in My Prayer Time.

I am getting behind in My Soul Winning.

In Doing the Good things that are needed to be done,  
I end up Neglecting the Best Things.

(Acts 6:4) *But we will give ourselves continually to  
prayer, and to the ministry of the word.*

The Best Thing I can do for this church is to be filled  
with the Spirit, Ready to Preach, & Striving in Prayer  
for you!

*A Preacher who is available for Anything, isn't much  
good for Anything when he is Available.*

***What do you want me to be doing for you?***

Activity is NO substitute for the ministry of the Word.

(Acts 6:1) People were talking about feeding physical food, & Ministering to the Widows.

(1 Pet 2:2) *As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:*

You need the WORD of GOD!

You need 4 Square Meals a Week from your Pastor!  
There is no Substitute for the Word of God.

You need a Solid Meal of the Word from your SS teacher!

***They would Organize a 2 pronged approach:***

#1 A Scriptural Ministry: (Acts 6:2)

#2 A Practical Ministry: (Acts 6:3,5-6)

They had to put together a PLAN to serve the Physical needs of the church.

They Appointed some Men to Wait Tables.

**The Qualifications listed to Wait Tables:**

(Acts 6:3) *Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.*

1. Honest Report - Impeccable Character

2. Full of the Holy Ghost:

*"I believe the Preacher should be Filled with the Spirit of God!" I Do TOO.*

*"I believe the Worship Leader should be Filled with the Spirit of God!" I Do TOO.*

*"I believe the Sunday School should be Filled with the Spirit of God!" I Do TOO.*

According to this, need to be filled with the Spirit of God to Work in the Kitchen gowns Stairs.

- Greeters Need to Be Filled with the Spirit of God.

- Ushers Need to Be Filled with the Spirit of God.

- Nursery Workers, Musicians, Cyber Saints, the Worshippers also.

When you do anything for Jesus, you need to be filled with the Spirit of God.

There is Nothing you can do for Jesus in Your Own Power that will amount to anything!

(Jn 15:5) *for without me ye can do nothing.*

The Problem is, We think this job is so insignificant, or unimportant, that we don't need the Holy Spirit's Power to do it.

**The Carnal thinking that you can serve Jesus without the filling of the Holy Spirit will kill Christ's Unstoppable Church.**

3. Full off Wisdom: Not Knowledge.

Business men, Entrepreneur, Doctor, Lawyer, etc.

W/o God's Wisdom, they do more harm than good.

The Ability to use Knowledge according to God's will

You cannot serve God without the Filling of the Holy Ghost, Impeccable Character, & Divine Wisdom.

*(Acts 6:5) And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost,*

*(Acts 6:8) And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.*

In Acts 7, Stephen preaches one of the greatest sermons recorded in all the bible!

He was Spiritually Qualified to Wait Tables.

*(Acts 6:5) And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose ... Philip,..*

*(Acts 8:5-25) Philip Went to Samaria & Preached down a Holy Ghost Revival*

*(Acts 8:26-39) Philip Preached to the Ethiopian Eunuch, led him to Christ, baptized him, and opened up all of North Africa to the Gospel.*

He was Spiritually Qualified to Wait Tables.

**Of these Waiters:**

- One was the First Martyr
- One was the First Missionary

Do you really think that there is something so small, so beneath you that you wouldn't even wait on tables?

***Then, You are TOO BIG for God!***

No ministry is ***too Small***, just ***too Small*** of Christians

**Now you can see how FBCJ was an Unstoppable Church!**

**Now you can see how our's will never BE, unless God brings us down few notches in our own eyes.**

***They would Organize a 2 pronged approach:***

**#1 A Scriptural Ministry:** (Acts 6:2)

***What do you want me to be doing for you?***

**#2 A Practical Ministry:** (Acts 6:3,5-6)

They had to put together a PLAN to serve the Physical needs of the church.

They Appointed some Men to Wait Tables.

**When Everybody pitched in there was even Greater Growth!** (Acts 6:7) *And the Word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem **greatly**; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.*

Growing now, even more so now!

They had a problem:

They Solved that problem in the Power of the Spirit.

The Problem was caused by growth.



When it was solved, there was even greater growth!

(Ps 4:1) *thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress;*  
Problems are Opportunities in Reverse!

Don't let problems discourage you from Growing!

Mark Bishop: 97 kids, 104 workers,

God did not Save You to SIT!

*Everybody wants to be a part of an alive church, but  
Nobody wants to take the time to help make it one.*

***What do you want me to be doing for you?***

How do you want me spending my time?

How can I best serve the needs of your family?

We have **2 AED's** that need to be mounted.

**Can't** you cut a whole in Dry wall & Mount it?

We need **3 sticks** of Facial put up on the Eve?

**Can't** you drive a couple of nails?

We have a Sunday School class room that needs pain.

Can't you do that?

We need the Garbage cans dumped on Sunday Night.

Are you too Important for that?

We need the Garbage cans pulled out for Garbage day.

Are you too Important for that?

You don't feel qualified to Teach?

Then do something so I can.

You don't feel you can go soul winning?

Then do something so I can.

You don't feel able to visit & pray with the sick?

Then do something so I can.

*Where there is Growth, there is Problems.*

*Where there Problems, there are Holy Ghost Solutions*

*Where there is Holy Ghost Solutions, there is Greater  
Growth ahead!*

This can translate into your Personal Life!

This can translate into your Family Life!

This can translate into your Secular Life!