



## START

To get things started, let's go around the circle and answer this question:

**Have you ever been pre-occupied or distracted and missed a flight, bus, a majorly important event or been really late to something? Tell us about that experience.**

## SHARE

In this week's message, we were honored to have Nick Nilson speak to Red Rocks Church about being a rebel for God. In the life of a believer, it is far too easy to get distracted from what is most important in life. We tend to look at what other people might be doing around us. For some, it is easy to get caught up in the busy routine of life and leave little room to listen for God's voice. For others, it is easy to just blindly follow the crowd, wherever they might be going, because deep down we don't want to rock the boat; we just desperately want to fit in, regardless of whether we honor God with our lives or not.

So what does it look like to be a 'rebel for God'? If we look at the lives of Paul and Barnabas in Acts, we see their boldness regardless what the crowd around them is doing.

**Lets start by reading Acts 14:1-18**

**Do you feel that the people surrounding your life—the 'crowd' if you will—affect your behavior or direction in life? If so, how?**

**Literally within a few days, Paul and Barnabas experienced two different types of crowds. What kinds of crowds were they?**

**Did Paul and Barnabas stop talking about Jesus when the crowds hated them? Why do you think they continued preaching?**

**When Paul and Barnabas were celebrated and adorned and everyone was calling them gods, how did they respond?**

## G R O W

Jesus experienced more crowds than we can ever imagine. Jesus was surrounded at times by the poor, the sick and dying, the already dead, the scared, the hopeless. Other times he was surrounded by the crafty, the wealthy, powerful leaders and kings, the political class, the religious rulers, those who wanted to stop him or use him for their own gain. Wherever Jesus went, crowds surrounded him, but not once did he change his mission or his message. Even with his last breath, a crowd surrounded him. Some to get souvenirs, many to glimpse this famous man they heard about ... others were there to mourn and a handful of people stood there praying for a miracle. Jesus knew a lot about crowds. One of the most dramatic changes he may have ever experienced was found in the gospel of Mark.

**Read Mark 11:7-10 and then Mark 15:1-15**

**What types of crowds do we find in these two passages?**

**How did Jesus respond to the crowd around him?**

## M O V E

Throughout the message, Nick talked about what it looked like to be a rebel for God. He talked about what it looked like to keep focused and stand for God when those around you won't. In the book of Daniel, we see three young men who decide they are not going to follow the crowd, but to stay true to the God they follow. They decided that they would not bow down to the 90-foot high statue of the human king, but would stand in defiance to honor the one true God.

**Read Daniel 3:23-30**

**What were the consequences of not bowing their knee with the crowds around them?**

**Our consequences of doing the right thing and honoring God might not be a sentence of death, but it can feel like it. Think about your own life right now. Where do you need God's help to stand up and be a rebel?**

**What kind of consequences do you think you will face to follow God 100% with your life?**

## P R A Y

As a group, spend some time praying for each other. If you are in a co-ed group, we highly encourage the men and the ladies to break up into separate groups so you can have some safe space to share.

## T O G O

**Daniel 3:28b**

*They ignored the king's orders and laid their bodies on the line rather than serve or worship any god but their own.*