

‘Not Much Happens Without Risks Taken’ 2 Kings 7:3-9

I. Life is like a box of chocolates.

A. I want to say that there is a place for taking risks in the Christian life, whether that risk might be a small risk or a big one. There is also a time to avoid risks.

B. I want to say that taking risks for the sake of the gospel and for the glory of God is a somewhat neglected, yet an essential part of _____ our world for Jesus Christ.

C. Let me define risk first: *‘risk is any action that might involve injury or loss of some kind.’* It might just be a loss of some money, a loss of ‘face’, or a loss of life. There are big risks, tiny risks. I also want to distinguish between foolish risks and godly risks. We are not to take foolish risks.

D. Also, God can take no risks. Why? Because risks involve ignorance. It involves not knowing what might happen, so a risk is involved. But our omniscient God knows all things, even the future. Jn. 13:17-19. God can take no risks, but He made some incredible sacrifices, for us.

And because God can take no risk, that is why we can take risks.

E. The Bible is filled with men and women who took risks for God. 2 Sam. 10 –Joab, Esther
It is true what Forrest Gump’s mother told him that *‘life is like a box of chocolates’* in that we never know what we will get or how things will turn out. We pray, we trust God, we go.

II. Life is like a hockey game.

A. Risks rewarded: 2 Kings 7 What promise of God is He asking you to stand on? Is there something stopping you? It’s been said that the measure of a man is by what stops him.

B. Not all risks are rewarded. Some just don’t ‘pan out.’ There are many biblical examples of that too, where people took a _____ risk, one based on pride or revenge, rather than trust in God.

Life is a lot like a hockey game. Ever notice how long a hockey player stays on the ice when he gets knocked down? Not long at all. He immediately pops right back up and gets back in the game.

III. Life is like a coin.

A. Many people aren’t into risks today. We all naturally gravitate to security; social security, home security, secure savings and loans, secure relationships and those are good things! But too often, over time, or especially as we get older, we become cautious, sophisticated, careful. We call it wisdom. And it is at times, but it may also just be a lack of faith. If we’re to get the gospel out to this truth-resistant culture, risks simply will be required. As said earlier, not much happens without someone taking some kind of risk.

B. For example, I encouraged my mother, when she was 80, to take risks. It may be taking a pie to a cranky neighbor or talking to a relative who has cut themselves off from others, a relational risk. It may be to take that _____ you’ve always wanted or to share Christ with a friend. The point is not to just take a risk, but to be willing to step out in faith and trust God and His promises.

C. We’re not to live in fear. Too many live their whole lives in fear and then soon they die. *Life is like a coin.* You can choose how to spend it but you only get to spend it once. And you will have to give an accounting as to how you spend it! Life is not secure anyway. Safety is not a bunker or a place or a medicine, safety is being in the center of God’s will for you!

Let’s step out and believe God. *illus. bible in Russia*

In what ways is God calling you to step out in faith and trust the promises of God?