

# Living Outside The Bubble

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So here we are at the end of this Bubble series. We have taken the entire month of January to identify at least in a general way those bubbles that we live in, and what were the practices that Jesus taught the disciples in preparing them to leave their bubbles. Last week we watched what happened in the story of Zaccheus as he literally burst his bubble. Today we are talking about living outside the bubble. What is life like if we are not living it within the comfort and protection of our own fortresses.

In the bible, in the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John there are 3 different stories that reveal 3 different characteristics that when Jesus encountered them in the lives of the people caused him to stop and take notice. Literally stop and point out to the disciples and anyone else who could hear him. These people are living at a different place. (10:30 – It was 3 bubbles that had been burst in these peoples lives and it caused them to live at a whole new reality, and just like the water in these balloons tries to maintain its shape, once the bubble is burst, it cannot help but give into the new circumstances – watch this – video of balloons 30 sec.) (say some transition)

Jesus saw 3 people

1. One who was sold out to God
2. One who was position to be OK, even if he did not get his way.
3. And one who was willing to make a fool of herself in order to ask God for the seemingly impossible

So let's look at these 3 characteristics that Jesus saw in 3 different people that in essence caused him to say, "Now that's what living outside the bubble looks like"

## 3 Characteristics that Made Jesus Stop and Take Notice

The first characteristic was

### 1. Abandonment to God

Abandonment to God and the purposes of God shows up in our willingness to let go of things, not take on more and more things and he saw this in the widow he observed in church

*"Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on." Mark 12:41-44*

Jesus was impressed by this woman because she was living by a whole different set of rules. Everyone else was hedging their bets, she was placing her whole stach on God. There was no hedging. If God did not come through for her, it was over.

There is something awesome and wonderful about meeting a person who lives life with this characteristic. There is a wildness, a go-for-broke kind of thing about their life that leaves us with a sense of awe. They will seemingly try anything for God. **The bottom line is: They are Available to God for God's purposes.** They break through obstacles that would keep most of us paralyzed. Some of you may know people like this. When you get into a project with them, you better strap into your seat belts, because it is going to be a ride.

Jesus saw this woman living out of that characteristic and it stopped him in his tracks, her unflinching trust was being displayed at that moment in her finances, but it could have been in a host of other areas of her life.

The second characteristic, showed up in a soldier, in fact a Roman Centurion.

## 2. Submission to God

*“When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. “Lord,” he said, “my servant lies at home paralyzed, suffering terribly.” Jesus said to him, “Shall I come and heal him?” The centurion replied, “Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.” When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, “Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith.” Matthew 8:5-10*

How many men this man commanded was right in his title. A commander over a century (or 100) of men. This man understood the value of the chain of command and order. In that, he also applied it to the spiritual world and the leadership that Jesus commanded. This man was not given to unpredictable behavior. He could be trusted by his commanding officer, and that is precisely why he was given charge over the men under his command. The bottom line for this man was Obedience.

Jesus recognized that the characteristic of submission to authority that he applied in his military business, he also applied to God.

The third story involves another woman. This is a Canaanite woman whose daughter was demon-possessed and it reveals a third characteristic that Jesus recognized that caused him to stop and take notice, and that is:

## 3. Boldness toward God

*“The woman came and knelt before him. “Lord, help me!” she said. He replied, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.” “Yes it is, Lord,” she said. “Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.” Then Jesus said to her, “Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.” And her daughter was healed at that moment.” Matthew 15:25-28*

Jesus had not run into such boldness very often. It caused him to break his own rule of only going to people who were of Israeli decent. People with a boldness toward God, you

just have to love them. They have no trouble asking for anything. The bottom line here is Confidence, There is a confidence in themselves and a confidence in their God that loves them. Their theme verse would often be “*Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Hebrews 4:16*” And if you watch them, it is precisely because they ask, that so many things happen, in their favor. I always look for these people in the churches, I hope to find them in positions of prayer warriors, passionate and bold, breaking through strongholds that build up in churches too often.

So there you have it. The 3 characteristics that Jesus recognized in people who clearly got his attention because they were living at a different place, they were living, at what we are calling, Outside the Bubble

However, let’s finish this message by taking a another quick look at these characteristics in the form of math formula. Because if your bubble bursts and you exhibit one of these characteristics and not the other ones, the results could be quite different than you might expect. So let’s take a quick look:

## 4 Formulas

Formula #:

### 1. Boldness – Abandonment & Submission = Arrogance

Meaning if you possess the capacity to confidently ask for whatever you need, without acquiring the characteristic of being available for God’s use (Abandonment) , or having the ability to submit to authority (Submission)...then living outside the bubble will cause you to come off to people as Arrogant or Demanding.

### 2. Submission – Abandonment & Boldness = Rule Follower

Likewise if you burst your bubble and the only characteristic that you possess is Submission and a high degree of Obedience is your only north star then you will come off as a Rule Follower, never really taking the risky steps (Abandonment) or asking for powerful things (Boldness) that God has planned for you and those you lead.

### 3. Abandonment – Submission & Boldness = Controlling

Finally, if the bubble bursts in your life and suddenly the rush of abandonment for God and being available to him and his purposes is all you think about, you can have a tendency to move ahead without consulting others (Submission) or even consulting God (Boldness) and you can come off very controlling

### 4. Abandonment + Submission + Boldness = Servant

But when the bubble burst and you realize that you have entered into a maturing process, where God will begin to develop you in all of these characteristics, then slowly but surely you will begin to acquire each of these areas in increasing measure and you will grow into a servant of God. Loving those around you the way they need to be loved and loving God who transformed your life.

A person who has:

1. The **Boldness** and the confidence to seek God's answers to the problems that come their way
2. and who is fully **Abandoned** or available to God and God's purposes
3. but who also possesses a **Submissive** heart and is obedient to change direction if they realize they now have new information from when they first heard God, is a powerful person.

So how is your Boldness gauge lately? Have you really asked God for something beyond your capability to provide.

What about your Submission monitor? What is your attitude when you don't get your way?

How about your Abandonment measuring stick. Would any one who knows you accuse you of being totally sold out to God?

Let's pray