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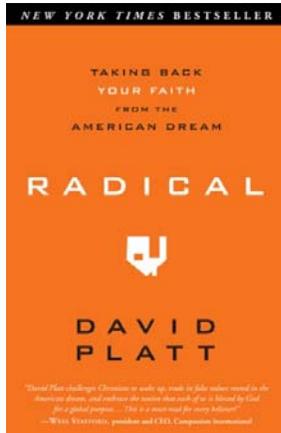
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The Gospel According to ... Jesus?

Pastor explores how the American Dream derails Christ's message



Colorado Springs, Colo. - Growing up in America we're all ingrained with the same idea: If you work hard enough you can achieve anything you want. Self-made millionaires and successful entrepreneurs are prime examples of those who have reached the American Dream. As part of the church in America, we also know that God wants each of His followers to live that dream. Right?

"Not so fast," says David Platt, author of *Radical* (Multnomah Books, May 4, 2010). Called the youngest megachurch pastor in history when he took the senior pastor position at The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, AL, Platt says that we've allowed our cultural preferences to manipulate the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Citing several examples from the Bible, Platt explains that Jesus asked his followers for nothing less than radical abandonment, telling them to leave their jobs, families and all they had. But in our American Dream culture, we say that He couldn't possibly mean that for us. "We are afraid of what it might mean for our lives," says Platt. "So we rationalize these passages away. We are starting to redefine Christianity. We are giving in to the dangerous temptation to take the Jesus of the Bible and begin twisting him into a version of Jesus that we are more comfortable with."

Taking the message that Christ taught, Platt preached a radical challenge to his church that led to a sweeping response. From families who sold their homes and downsized to individuals who have sold all they have in order to help meet urgent, spiritual, and physical need across the globe, this challenge has changed lives. And *Radical* will change yours. Also look for the companion booklet, *The Radical Question* (May 4, 2010) and the community-centered follow-up title, *Radical Together* (April 19, 2011).

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

David Platt is the pastor of The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, AL. Regarded as an exceptional expositor, David has taught around the world. He holds two undergraduate and three advanced degrees, including a Ph.D. from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. David and his wife Heather are the parents of Caleb and Joshua, and are in the process of adopting a third child.



Christian Living

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