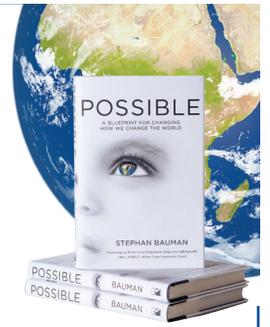


PREACHING PLANS
to accompany
POSSIBLE
by STEPHAN BAUMAN

Consider getting your whole church to read *Possible*, and then preaching along with them. Here are some broad outlines for a three-part series as well as several stand-alone messages. You could mine the book for quotes and anecdotes, or add your own, but here's a thematic and scriptural structure.

THE SERIES: POSSIBLE



Sermon 1: Wake Up! (Recovering Our Call)

- A. You are created and called to do good things. Eph. 2:10. John 15:16. 2 Cor. 5:17-21.
- B. Yes, you. It's God's power, not your own. John 14:12; 1 Cor. 1:26-31; Zech. 4:6.
- C. Let's stop dawdling and move forward. 2 Cor. 6:1-2; Rev. 3:2; Phil. 3:12-14.

Sermon 2: What's Wrong? (Reframing the Problem)

A. What God wants for this world

A vision of justice and righteousness Isa. 42:1-7; Matt. 25:31-46; Isa. 58:6-10.

B. Start with your laments (pp. 30-31 of Possible) Ps. 10; Hab. 1:2-4; etc.

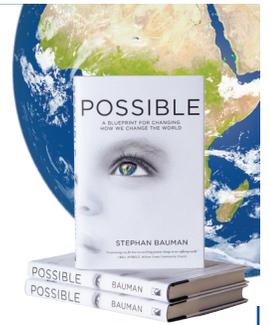
C. Examine your root beliefs and how they grow into values, behavior, and results (pp. 90-96; 167-171 of Possible) Luke 6:43-45.

D. Look for “collisions”

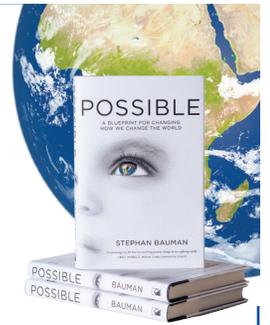
“... often change comes only after it has been set in motion by a collision, an act of outrageous compassion, a season of unforeseen suffering, or even a surprising offense” (Bauman, p. 99)

What acts, aches, or affronts have you collided with lately?

How might that stir you to righteous action?



Sermon 3: Hope and Heroes (Remaking the world)



A. Our calling as creators. Gen. 1:26-28 (image, stewardship); Gen. 2:15,19 (working, naming)

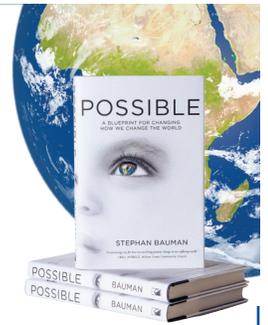
B. Creating heroes. Eph. 4:11-13; 2 Tim. 2:2; Acts 2:17-18.

We're used to the challenge to be heroes, but a key component of this book is the call to make heroes—encouraging, empowering, and equipping people to do great things, especially those who are needy themselves.

C. Hatching hope. Rom. 8:18-25; Rom. 15:13; 1 Tim. 4:10.

We can make a difference, in God's power and for his glory, in partnership with one another. Single messages

Sermon 4: Mission Impossible (What the Bible says about possibility)



- A. Luke 1:37. Nothing is impossible with God—even providing a Savior to the world through a virgin peasant like Mary. (Note the alternate reading in newer versions—God’s word never fails—a reminder that he fulfills his promises, sometimes through us.)

- B. Matt. 19:16-26. Parse this passage carefully. If the wealthy—who were obviously blessed by God—had trouble getting into God’s kingdom, could anyone hope to enter? The grace of God makes the impossible possible? (And there’s a hint here that God can break the chains of greed that might keep us from investing ourselves in his plan.)

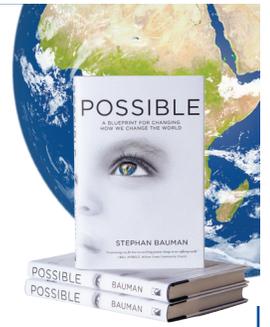
- C. Mark 9:23. Is there any doubt about the Lord’s healing power? As we approach the huge needs of our world, do we really question what he can do?

- D. Phil. 4:13. “I can do all things” specifically refers to living in plenty or in need. If you wonder whether you could function without your affluence, rest assured that God will give you strength.

- E. Eph. 3:20. Beyond our wildest dreams—that’s the scope of God’s power.

So what sort of “impossible” project is God inviting your church tackle?

Sermon 5: Blueprint for Change (A one-sermon overview of the material from the Possible book)



A. Dare

The Israelites considered it impossible to defeat Goliath; David didn't (1 Samuel 17). The master condemned the servant who hid his money (talent) in the ground rather than risk it by investing (Matthew 25:26-27). No matter what your limitations are, God is greater, and he has chosen you to do great things for him (John 15:16).

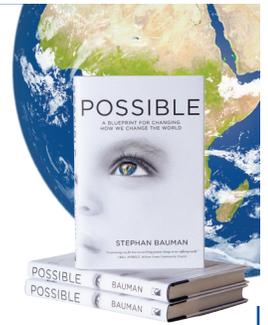
B. Download

Just what is it that God wants us to do? We carry on the mission of Jesus (Luke 4:18-19), bringing righteousness and justice. Pay attention to the needs that trouble you. Download God's directions on how you can impact the world (Matt. 5:13-16). Look for unique opportunities that crash into your life.

C. Do

Romans 12. Give your time and energy sacrificially and let God transform your thinking. Use the gifts and resources God has given you to do the work he has shown you. Honor others by helping them do God's work too. Be joyful in hope.

Sermon 6: Making Heroes (A Bible study based on chapter 9 of Possible)



A. The Bible has unlikely heroes. Prisoner Joseph. Bashful Gideon. Foreigner Ruth. Foot-in-mouth Peter. Maybe you're an unlikely hero—or maybe you know someone else who is.

B. The Bible has heroes who leveraged their success in one area to serve God in another. Moses the prince of Egypt. Esther the beauty queen. Paul the persecutor. Maybe God is calling you to do this—or to encourage someone else to do so.

C. Consider the people in the Bible who made heroes. Their own prominence was irrelevant, but they nudged someone else to serve God powerfully. Jethro. onathan. Mordecai. Aquila and Priscilla. Phoebe. Eli challenged young Samuel to lesson to God, and then Samuel became a kingmaker for Saul and David. Barnabas shepherded Paul, who later mentored Timothy, who pastored others. Consider the chain of influence described in 2 Timothy 2:2.

Is there a hero-in-the-making in your life?

How can we as a church “make heroes” in our international and national mission support?