

DGM Message Summary: The Curse of Almost

Takeaway:

Do you ever look back on life with regret? Maybe there are goals you didn't meet or opportunities you should have taken. Maybe you fell victim to the curse of "almost." But don't despair! Today is a new day. "Almost" is one of the saddest words we have in the dictionary. However, as a child of God, there is already HOPE for MORE inside of you... As a child of God, you can trade your "almost" for His "utmost," and experience the life He's always had planned for you!

Scriptural References:

- Acts 26:1
 - King Agrippa was the great grandson of Herod, who murdered all the babies in Bethlehem.
 - Paul, a prisoner in King Agrippa's court, made an appeal to his captor.
 - Even though Paul was in chains, he stretched his arms out like a man in absolute control... fully animated and unintimidated.
 - Evil prospers when good people remain silent.
- Acts 26:2
 - "I think myself happy," Paul says.
 - He was so full of his God that in the midst of a trial, he was at peace, happy with a confidence that only comes from God.
 - An awful situation couldn't deter Paul.
 - Here stood a man with a clear conscience and a merry heart.
 - This is a combination that cannot be defeated.
- Acts 26:3-8
 - The way Paul addresses the king is through affirmation.
 - He honored him, was pleasant and sweet.
 - Paul submitted to the authority of the earthly king.
 - Paul was big enough to realize that the situation was not about his safety, but about shining God's light at the highest level.
 - Pain is a platform for God's message of salvation.
 - Paul began as an "almost."
 - Paul was an absolute and verifiably wicked man.
 - He killed Christians and yet, God used his "almost" and made it an "utmost" story — Paul became one of God's greatest examples of life-changed.

Key Points:

- When you spend time with the King of Kings, earthly kings lose their luster.
- As children of the true King, we have to be willing to speak, even when our voices shake.
- We've got to learn how to answer for ourselves...there will be seasons in our lives where we have to give an answer for the hope within us.

- Why are you so unhappy if you share the same God, share the same hope, and have been washed in the same blood as Paul through Christ Jesus?
- You don't have to be bitter and nasty towards your enemies or those that oppose you.
- We can still love and be kind to people. Just because you're right, doesn't give you a right to be mean.
- Be masterful with your pain and with your answers. Be open and transparent and considerate in all your ways, acknowledging Christ and trusting in His plan.
- We can learn from Paul's life and from the trial he went through in Acts 26, that when we trust in God, no matter what, we will never be an almost.
- Instead, we can look forward to a life of utmost: challenges, trials, successes, and situations. He is within us, therefore, we cannot fail.