



Reckless

Following Jesus to the Point of No Return

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Book Preview

Zane Black

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Black, Zane.

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Dedication

To all the men who have personally invested in my life through intentional discipleship and shown me what it truly means to follow Jesus.

To name a few:

Greg Stier, Derwin Gray, Brad Keirnes,
Phil Peterson, Bryan Bartells, Seth Dombach,
Dan Thomas, Wayne Weismann, Frank Cirone,
Matt Roberts, Doug Horch, Doug Toller,
Steve Bullard, Joshua Morris, and so many more
who have helped shape me into the
man I am today.

My hope is that this book will inspire others
to make the same everlasting investment
through discipleship.

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You make me better.

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And

To my editor, Jane Dratz, you have been far more than an "editor." You have labored and toiled over this book and made me sound way smarter than I actually am. I could not have done it without you. You are amazing. THANKS!

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1

THE INVITATION

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**Jesus invites us to go all in, to follow Him
to the point of no return.**

One sunny afternoon awhile back, I'd just entered Timberline Lodge, a Torchbearers Center, located in the beautiful mountains of Coloradical, when I suddenly realized that I'd left my skateboard out in the lobby. As I headed back to grab it, I discovered it'd been taken over by a six year old wild man named Jo-Jo.

I work at Timberline and Jo-Jo's family lives there too, so I knew him well. He was one of my favorite little kids, because he had no fear. To say that he was hyper would be an understatement. I felt like I could relate.

Whenever you were around Jo-Jo, you knew something exciting was going to happen. Like the time when his mom found him in the laundry room, not so much helping with the daily chores, but with his pants down, proceeding to pee into the dryer socket!

A dryer socket is 220 volts of electricity and probably could have blown the little dude through the wall.

His mom freaked out, naturally, as any mother would do when she finds her child urinating in large electrical sockets. But Jo-Jo just looked up with a smile and said, "Look, Mom, SPARKS!"

So Jo-Jo was a wild man, and I loved him for it.

But on this particular late afternoon, Jo-Jo had been drawn like a magnet to my skateboard and he'd flipped it upside down so that the wheels were up in the air. He was sitting in the middle of it, spinning those wheels like crazy. It was almost as if he were trying to rip them off the board, all the while making a noise with his mouth like a wild hyena. Everybody else just walked by thinking, "Oh that wild little Jo-Jo." But for me this looked like a golden opportunity.

I don't know what I was thinking, but I got the wild idea that I wanted to see if Jo-Jo was interested in actually riding the skateboard. So I carefully approached this wild little animal and invited him to experience the board on a whole new level by asking, "Hey Jo-Jo, you want to ride the skateboard?"

Now this stopped Jo-Jo mid hyena cackle. I could tell he was interested, but he also realized that he'd have to stop what he was doing in order

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for me to show him what I wanted to show him. He thought about it for a while and then ever so slowly got off the board, signaling he was willing to give me a chance.

So I very carefully reached out to grab the board, knowing that I was jeopardizing my fingers in front of this little savage. He growled a little, but let me pass.

I took the skateboard, holding it upside down with the wheels still up and then making some sweet noises myself as if I were some sort of magician. I flipped the board right side up.

Carefully, I took Jo-Jo and put him on the skateboard. This is where it got fun. I felt like we needed a little more room to roll, so I slowly pushed him from the lobby to the cafeteria. I figured this would be perfect for our purpose. You see, it was dinnertime and people were setting the tables and trying to work, but I figured they would serve as perfect obstacles for Jo-Jo and me. I pushed him around the room while he yelled at the top of his lungs, "I'M SKATEBOARDING!!!!!!" We were running into tables, chairs, and yes, even the servers trying to do their job. But it was awesome!



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[Jo-Jo and I experiencing a skateboard the way it was designed to be used.]

When we were done, Jo-Jo hugged my neck so tightly I thought my head was going to pop off. He had just experienced the skateboard in the way it was meant to be used and his joy was uncontainable.

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So what does this Jo-Jo story have to do with Jesus?

What Jo-Jo learned about experiencing a skateboard in the way it was meant to be used is also true about us and our life with Jesus. Here's what I mean.

If you've put your trust in Jesus, you already have your "salvation skateboard." It's yours. It was given to you freely. But maybe you haven't yet learned how to ride it and experience the fullness of its purpose.

Maybe you're like Jo-Jo, sitting on it upside down just spinning the wheels, and Christianity has become boring. When all the time, Jesus has given you this gift of a relationship with Him so you can jump on and discover the thrill of the ride. So you can experience all that your life in Christ was designed to be, bombing every hill of opportunity, opening up new horizons never before imagined.

And let me be really clear here. Your salvation is a free gift. It comes by faith alone in Jesus alone. Free to you, but it isn't cheap, because it cost Jesus everything. This is why you shouldn't be content to stop at the point where you first trusted in Christ and leave it at that.

Because Jesus is calling you, as His follower, to even more. Not in order to *be* saved, but because you *are* saved.

He longs for you to experience the fullness of this gift you've received! He's inviting you to go all in and learn how to actually ride your board. He put it this way in John 10:10, *"...I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."*

What does this look like?

It's all about learning to follow Him. Because following Jesus is about more than just getting out of hell and getting into heaven (fire insurance). It's about experiencing the fullness of life on earth (the very life of GOD) NOW!

Jo-Jo had to stop what he was doing and try something new in order to experience the fullness of what the board was made for. Maybe you too need to try some new things and give up some old things in order to experience the fullness of what Jesus has for you. Jo-Jo had to trust me in what I wanted to show him, and he did, because he believed it just might be better. And I promise you that Jesus has even greater things in store for you if you are willing to trust Him more fully and go all in.

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And that's what this book is about. What it looks like to recklessly abandon all to follow this Jesus guy for all you're worth, with everything you've got.

I invite you to join me and step into this adventure of following Him.

Just like all adventures, it will involve risk and even take sacrifice, but the payoff will be worth it. Because the invite that Jesus gives to truly follow is actually an invitation to an all-satisfying and fulfilling life of endless opportunities.

This epic adventure is available to every man, woman, dude or dudette alive who has trusted in Christ for heaven and wants to go a step further and experience how it was designed to impact their lives on earth. This is not just for pastors, priests, theological teachers, adults or the educated. This fullness that Jesus offers is for everybody, even teenagers!

And it's meant to be experienced today.