

Mission Impossible

Background

I was attending the Leaders' Hub meeting in Twerton, Bath on 27th April where there were some thoughts expressed on the fact that all things are possible for God. I scribbled down two words – Mission Impossible – and found the seed of an idea being planted.

The following drama is the result. My thought is that it could be used as a discussion starter and have added a couple of suggestions for topics at the end. Please forgive me if you think anything is a bit irreverent – it's not intended. Numbers in red in brackets refer to the scripture references at the end.

Mission Impossible

Players

- Christian – can be male or female
- God – heard but not seen. Ideally uses a microphone to be heard via the PA system

Props

- Bible
- Chair

Scene

- The Christian is alone in a quiet place reading his/her Bible

Christian	<p><i>(frowning)</i></p> <p>There's a lot of hard stuff in here that it says God wants us to do.</p> <p><i>(flicks through pages of the Bible)</i></p> <p>Look at this in Romans 12:(1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>"Hate what is evil, love what is good"</i> – that's OK, I think I can manage that• <i>"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love"</i> – Not so easy, I can do it most of the time for most of the people• <i>"Honour one another above yourselves"</i> – What does that mean? I try to put others first, is that it? What's next?• <i>"Never be lacking in zeal, but keep all your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord"</i> – 'Never' is a bit strong, we all get tired and frustrated at times, don't we? And we can't be serving Him all the time. We just have to fit it around all our other commitments.• <i>"Be joyful in hope"</i> – I like that one• <i>"patient in affliction"</i> – Get real!• <i>"faithful in prayer"</i> – I try – after all I do have my regular prayer time ... most days
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Share with God’s people who are in need?”</i> – if I can I do, but I don’t have much myself. I always put something in the offering on Sunday. • <i>“Practice hospitality”</i> – well I try, after all I enjoy company so that’s not too bad. • <i>“Bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse”</i> – I don’t really get any persecution, not like in some countries so that’s OK and I never curse anyone. I don’t swear or anything like that. • <i>“Rejoice with those who rejoice”</i> – yeah, OK but it’s not always quite so easy when I’m going through a difficult patch. • <i>“mourn with those who mourn”</i> – I’d like to but I have enough problems of my own. • <i>“Live in harmony with one another”</i> – have you seen the bunch at our church. Some are OK but others can be a real pain. • <i>“Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited”</i> – well that’s all right. I’ll talk to anyone and give them the benefit of my presence and wisdom. • <i>“Do not repay anyone with evil for evil”</i> – As if I would! • <i>“Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody”</i> – I try not to be seen doing wrong so I guess that’s OK. • <i>“If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone”</i> - well I guess I can always avoid the difficult ones. • <i>“Do not take revenge ... leave room for God’s wrath for it is written, ‘It is mine to avenge; I will repay’ says the Lord.”</i> – well I wish he would hurry up in some cases. • <i>“If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink. In doing this you will heap burning coals on his head”</i> – I’m not sure what that last bit means but the first part is going a bit far. • <i>“do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good”</i> – sounds good but it’s easier to say than to do. <p><i>(pauses and stares at the Bible in frustration then looks up to the ceiling)</i></p> <p>Surely you’re not serious about this, God? You don’t expect me to do all this.</p>
God	Yep.
Christian	<p><i>(looking around, trying to work out where the voice came from)</i></p> <p>Who’s there? Who spoke?</p>
God	I did.
Christian	<p><i>(a bit frightened)</i></p> <p>Who are you?</p>
God	The one you called out to... God
Christian	No, someone’s playing a joke. You can’t be God.
God	Why not?

Christian	He's never spoken to me before. Or should I say you've never spoken to me if you are God.
God	Yes I have, you just didn't hear me.
Christian	How do I know it's really you?
God	Do you want me to tell you about that time when you were 15 and you should have been doing your history homework but instead went to the cinema to see ...
Christian	<i>(interrupting quickly)</i> How could you know that? I made sure nobody saw me!
God	I did!
Christian	How could you?
God	I told you ... I'm God.
Christian	Well OK ... I guess.
God	Now what was it you were saying?
Christian	Well, all these things in the Bible. You don't really expect me to do them all, do you?
God	That's what I'm asking
Christian	But it's too hard!
God	I never said it was easy, but you can do it ... with my help.
Christian	And what about all that other stuff, like going to the ends of the earth making disciples (2)
God	Yep, wherever I send you.
Christian	... and healing the sick? Making the blind see and the lame walk?
God	That's right!
Christian	What about casting out demons?
God	That too.
Christian	No, I can't do all that.
God	Why not?
Christian	Well, it's impossible.
God	<i>(thoughtfully)</i> Hmm ... impossible ... no I don't know that word. What does it mean?
Christian	Are you kidding me?
God	No, explain it to me.
Christian	It means it can't be done.
God	Still can't quite grasp what you're saying. Give me an example.
Christian	Well, what about changing the weather?
God	That's a breeze. Sorry about the pun.
Christian	Or feeding folk in the wilderness when they run out of food?

God	Plenty of manna in my storehouse.
Christian	OK then. How about raising the dead?
God	I've done that. No problem. Remember Lazarus? (3) And don't forget my son, Jesus.
Christian	OK, I'm beginning to get the idea. You can do anything, right?
God	You got it.
Christian	But it's not the same for people like me.
God	Why not?
Christian	We're human and not all powerful like you.
God	Hmm. You've got your Bible there. Turn to Luke 9 and read verses 1 and 2.
Christian	<i>"When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick."</i>
God	If the Twelve were given the power to do that, do you think I'm going to send you less equipped?
Christian	(sheepishly) I guess not.
God	Your mission then, if you choose to accept it, is to do what it says in Matthew 26 ¹⁸⁻²⁰ .
Christian	Hang on, let me check. (fumbles through the Bible) OK, here it is. <i>"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'"</i> All right I see what you mean and I accept the mission.
God	Great!
Christian	So where do I begin?
God	Don't worry, I'll show you. Just keep listening.
Christian	I get the message.
God	Right. And one last thing.
Christian	What?
God	This message doesn't self-destruct. Ever!

References

- 1 Romans 12:9-21
- 2 Matthew 26:18-20
- 3 John 11:1-44

Suggestions for Discussion

- Is there anything that you're holding back from because you consider it impossible?
- Is it a reason or an excuse?
- What do you need to do about it?

Further Discussion or Meditation

- Does God understand the word "impossible"?
 - As a concept?
 - From practical experience?

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