



# UNSTOPPABLE FORCE

The Church: a people  
of hope for the world

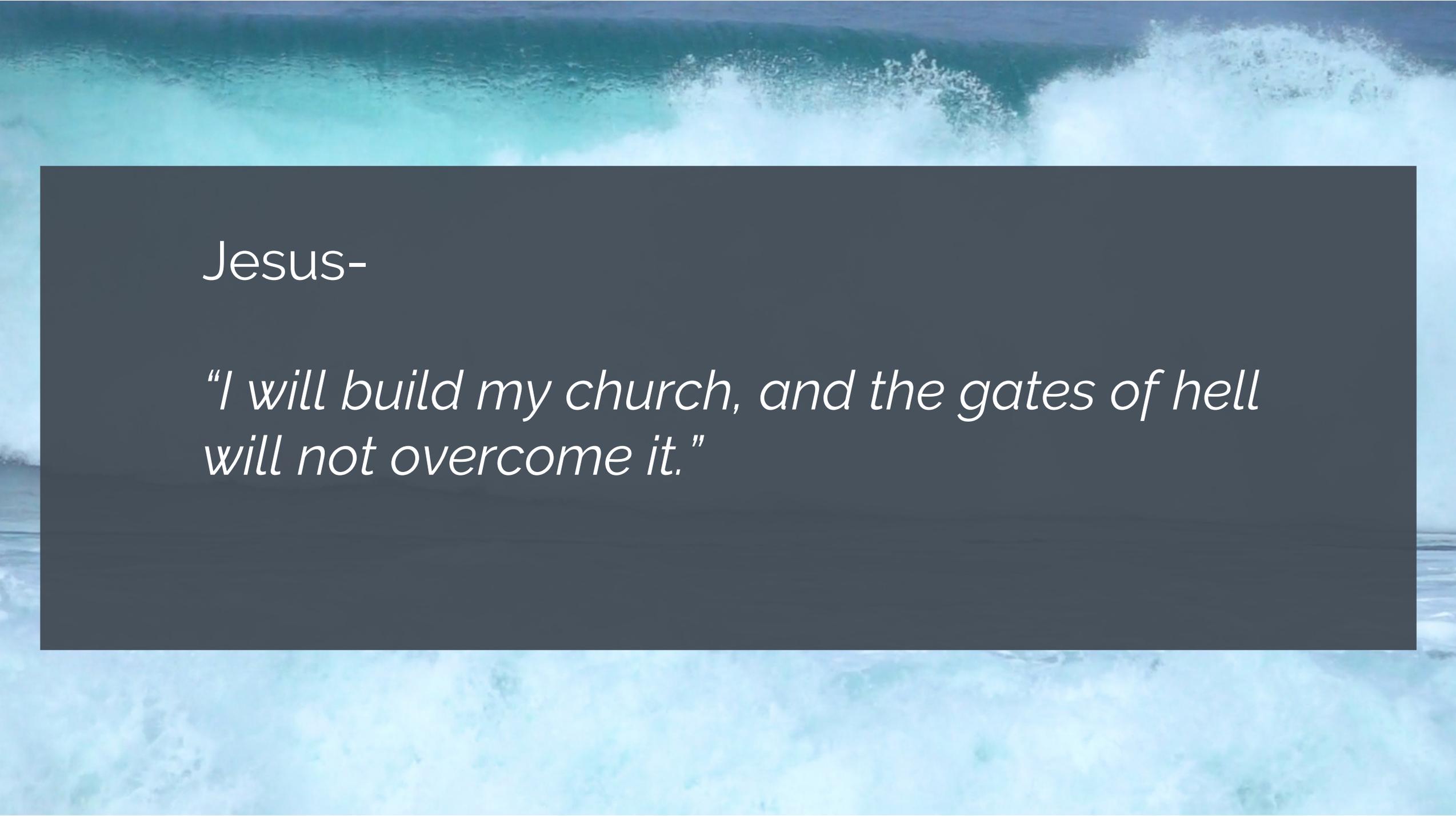
A vintage rotary telephone is shown against a warm, orange-brown background. A white speech bubble is overlaid on the phone, containing the text "Asking for a Friend". The word "Asking" is in a dark blue, cursive font, "for a" is in a smaller, dark blue, sans-serif font, and "Friend" is in a larger, dark blue, cursive font. The phone's coiled cord is visible in the lower-left corner.

*Asking*  
for a  
*Friend*



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The Church: a people  
of hope for the world



Jesus-

*“I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not overcome it.”*

Discipleship

and

Contextualization

The Church universal will always continue, but each local church is very, very fragile.

**Without the Mission of God, our message of hope, and seeking Spiritual renewal...our local impact will become a mix of moral charity and philanthropy.**

RODNEY STARK

—  
HOW THE  
JESUS MOVEMENT  
BECAME THE  
WORLD'S LARGEST  
RELIGION  
—

*the*

TRIUMPH  
*of* CHRIST-  
IANITY

*“No matter how other worldly their outlook, to succeed, Christians dealt effectively with worldly issues and **material possessions**. They did this primarily through the conviction of **stewardship**, as opposed to ownership, which resulted in the church being amply funded for its work in the world.”*

*Rodney Stark*

Stewards R Us

A steward manages assets for the owner's benefit. He carries no sense of ownership to the assets; his job is to find out what the owner wants done with the assets and carry out his will.

Because we are stewards...

Life is a **TEST** and a **TRUST**, and to those who show themselves as **FAITHFUL**, the best is yet to come.

Foundational truths...

There is a fundamental connection between our spiritual lives and how we think about and handle money.

John the Baptist in LUKE 3...

- 1. Everyone should share clothes and food with the poor (v.11).*
- 2. Tax collectors shouldn't pocket extra money (v. 13).*
- 3. Soldiers should be content with their wages and not extort (v. 14).*

Foundational truths...

Nothing competes for our heart's  
allegiance like material resources.

Foundational truths...

My heart will always go where I put  
God's money.

“My pursuit of money drove me away from God. But since I’ve been giving it to him, everything has changed. In fact, giving has brought me closer to God than anything else.”

Mark- Kentucky attorney

Because we are stewards...

Life is a **TEST** and a **TRUST**, and to those who show themselves as **FAITHFUL**, the best is yet to come.



“I have come to seek and to save that which was lost...”



Archelaus 4 B.C.

“Put this  
money to  
work...”



*“Everything under heaven belongs  
to me.”*

Job 41:11

*Remember the LORD your God, for it is  
he who gave you the ability to produce  
wealth.*

Deut. 8:18

We take the stewardship test in unfavorable cultural conditions.

“Clearly the servants must go through public struggle and endure public hardship for the sake of the gift and the trust that was given to them by their master. But the noble man wants to know, ‘Are you willing to take the risk and openly declare yourselves to be my loyal servants in a world that openly opposes me and my rule?’”

Kenneth E. Bailey

“In essence the servant says, ‘Your gift did this. I just put it in motion, and you created the environment, the conditions, you created what was needed to cause your gift to grow. It was your power, your influence. I just took it to the right place.’”

“On the master’s return, at first he gives no attention to his enemies. This is the equivalence of an elephant walking into the room and no one noticing. Clearly his priority is the loyalty of his servants in his absence.”

-Kenneth E. Bailey

All of us will have to give an account  
of our stewardship of God's  
resources.

*"For all of us will stand before God's judgment seat... So then,  
each of us will give an account of himself to God." Rom. 14: 10,12*

...Wish I'd brought a magazine.



The issue is not how much or how little resources we have. The issue is whether we will experience the eternal great gain of being a faithful steward of God's resources in this lifetime.

No excuse will “cut it” for not being a good steward as people have the sentence of death over their lives.

Stewards R Us

Y.B.H?

*“On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.”*

1 Cor. 16: 2

Give to the Lord first...

because life happens!

“And God **is able** to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”

2 Cor. 9:8

Your life on Earth

Your life in Eternity



Be attentive to what “sticks” to your heart, what God has communicated is also on his heart.



William Borden

“He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose.”

Jim Elliot

Because we are stewards...

Life is a **TEST** and a **TRUST**, and to those who show themselves as **FAITHFUL**, the best is yet to come.