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# RISK TAKERS

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Taking a risk to welcome others

# Acts 15:1-23(NIVUK)

The council at Jerusalem

**15** Certain people came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the believers: 'Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved.' <sup>2</sup> This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and

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debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question. <sup>3</sup> The church sent them on their way, and as they travelled through Phoenicia and Samaria, they told how the Gentiles had been converted. This news made all the believers

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very glad. <sup>4</sup> When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and elders, to whom they reported everything God had done through them.

<sup>5</sup> Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, 'The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to keep the law of Moses.'



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<sup>6</sup> The apostles and elders met to consider this question. <sup>7</sup> After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: `Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles should hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe. <sup>8</sup> God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving



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the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us.

<sup>9</sup> He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. <sup>10</sup> Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear? <sup>11</sup> No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are



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saved, just as they are.’<sup>12</sup> The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them.<sup>13</sup> When they finished, James spoke up. ‘Brothers,’ he said, ‘listen to me.<sup>14</sup> Simon<sup>(a)</sup> has described to us how God first intervened to choose a people for his

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name from the Gentiles. <sup>15</sup> The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is

written: <sup>16</sup> “After this I will return

and rebuild David’s fallen tent.

Its ruins I will rebuild,

and I will restore it,

<sup>17</sup> that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, even all the Gentiles who bear my

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name, says the Lord, who does these things" – <sup>18</sup> things known from long ago.

<sup>19</sup> `It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. <sup>20</sup> Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled

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animals and from blood. <sup>21</sup> For the law of Moses has been preached in every city from the earliest times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath.'

The council's letter to Gentile believers

<sup>22</sup> Then the apostles and elders, with the whole church, decided to choose some of



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their own men and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They chose Judas and Silas, men who were leaders among the believers. <sup>23</sup> With them they sent the following letter: The apostles and elders, your brothers, To the Gentile believers in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia: Greetings.



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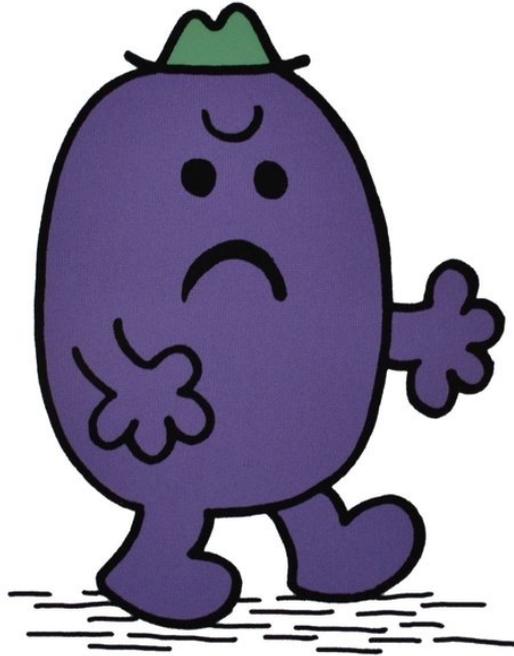
# RISK TAKERS

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# MR. GRUMBLE

Roger Hargreaves



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Taking a risk to welcome others



WELCOME YOU ARE



1. Love people that aren't like you v3, 12

WELCOME YOU ARE

A dirt road winding through a forest. The road is light-colored and leads into the distance. On either side of the road, there are tall, dry grasses and some evergreen trees. The background shows a dense forest of trees, some with bare branches and some with green needles. The sky is overcast and grey.

**There is a story behind every person, a reason why they are the way they are. Don't be quick to judge. Be kind and assume the best.**

Nicky Gumbel



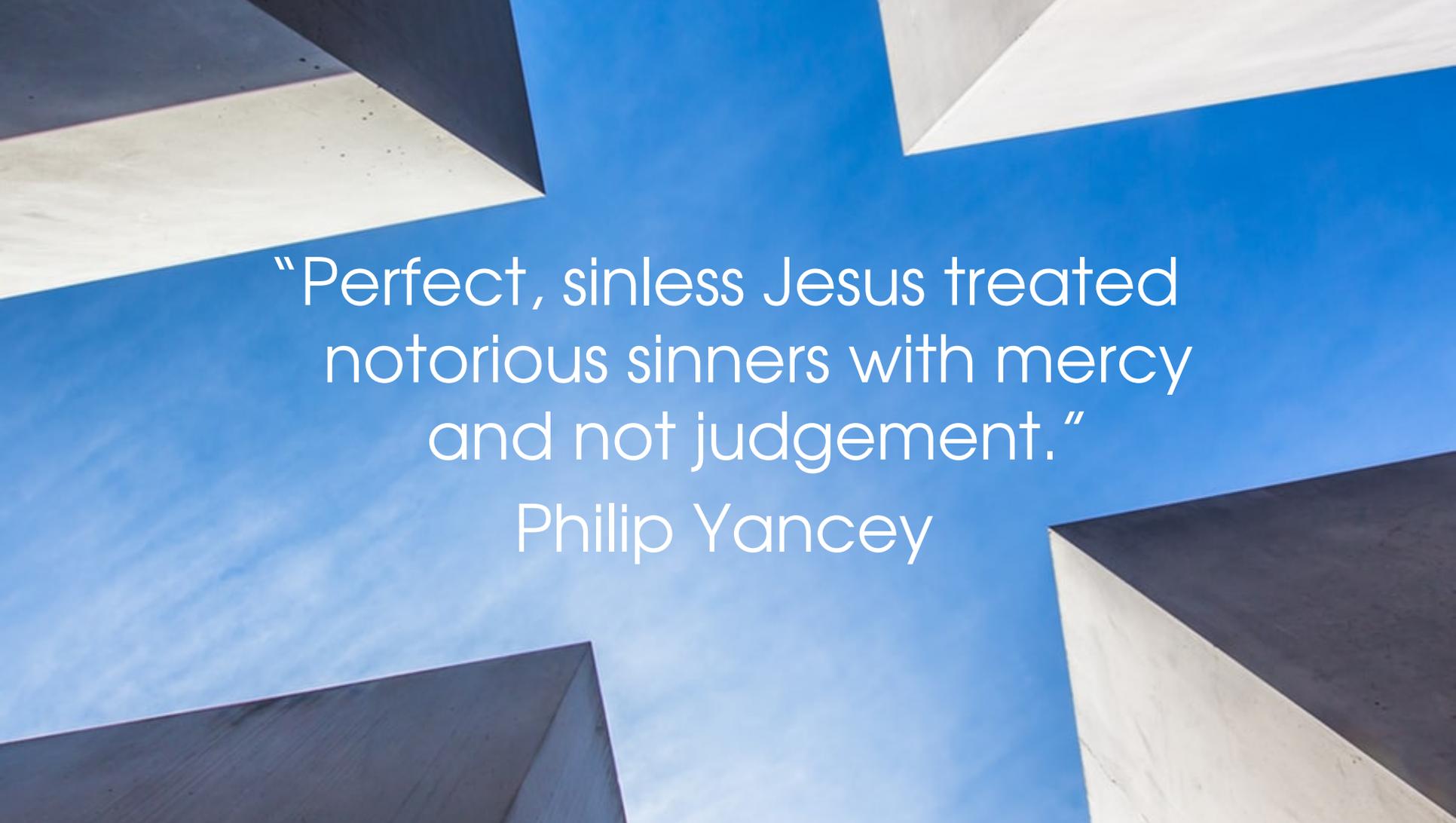
1. Love people that aren't like you v3, 12

WELCOME YOU ARE



2. Don't make it hard for others v1, 10, 19

WELCOME YOU ARE



“Perfect, sinless Jesus treated  
notorious sinners with mercy  
and not judgement.”

Philip Yancey



2. Don't make it hard for others v1, 10, 19

WELCOME YOU ARE



“When I see  
my own  
brokenness,  
I am less likely  
to judge  
others.”

Jon Tyson

MERCY

*triumphs*

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JUDGEMENT

JAMES 2:13



**3. Go the extra mile to welcome others**

**WELCOME YOU ARE**



You are  
loved

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