

# SERMON OUTLINE 5

# FOLLOW ME

**NOTE:** It is recommended that you read chapter 28, “Skin in the Game,” in *Love Does* before the sermon so you will be well acquainted with the stories from Bob Goff.

## I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Being a bully doesn’t have any age limits. Bob tells the story of when he was young and intentionally picked a fight with a huge seventh-grader named Dale. Dale was a bully who picked on smaller kids, and Bob’s sense of justice was so offended that he challenged Dale to a fight. Bob wanted to defend the little guy. Bob got bloodied for his efforts and suspended from school for two days.
- B. After graduating law school and passing the bar, Bob—poor and unknown, yet still wanting to help the vulnerable—met two adult bullies who *claimed* to be Christians. The two men hated each other with vile hatred. They wanted to use the law to inflict great pain on one another.
- C. Because mediation did not work for the two, Bob challenged them to literally fight it out in a boxing ring. Bob rented the ring, a referee, and two sets of headgear and gloves. The time and place was set. The two men were no-shows, and he never heard from them again. For bullies, it’s not about resolution; it’s always about fighting.
- D. Disputes happen even among Christians. How will Christians settle disputes? What fights will Christians pick?

## II. TEACHING

- A. Jesus experienced disputes.
  - 1. Between family members (see Luke 12:13–14).
  - 2. Between His disciples (see Luke 22:24–30).
  - 3. Between religious leaders (see Luke 20:1–8).

- B. Jesus proclaimed love as the primary weapon for “fights.”
  - 1. Love keeps on forgiving (see Matthew 18:21–35).
  - 2. Love is willing to lose (see Matthew 26:52–54).
- C. Whose side is God on in a dispute? God doesn’t take sides (see Joshua 5:13–15). God asks, “Who is on My side?” He asks who will pick a fight for Him . . .
  - 1. Against injustice toward the weak and vulnerable (see James 1:27).
  - 2. Against neglect of the hungry, the homeless, and the prisoner (see Matthew 25:31–46).
  - 3. Against the sin, despair, and hopelessness of this world (see Romans 1:16–17).

### **III. APPLICATION**

- A. Bob writes that love requires “close contact. . . . Love is always that way.”
- B. “God wants us to get some skin in the game and help make a tangible difference.”
- C. What fight will you commit to? What injustice will you call out? “Picking a fight isn’t neat either. It’s messy, it’s time consuming, it’s painful, and it’s costly.”
- D. Taking God’s side in this world of conflict and disputes puts you in a good place. “It sounds an awful lot like the kind of fight Jesus took on for us when He called out death for us and won.” With skin in the game, will you fight the good fight of faith?