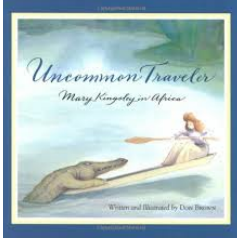


# Ambition

Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands.

1 Thessalonians 4:11

## Family Book



**Author & Illustrator:**  
Don Brown

## Gabon



## Bibliography

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## Videos (YouTube)

Rich Mullins - Creed (with introduction) - Jim McManus

Africa - Surfing Hippos (BBCKnowledge)

Geography Now! Gabon

Gabon - Surfing Hippos (Erwan Simon)

[e4project.org](http://e4project.org): PK27 (vimeo)

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

Philippians 2:3

## The Disciples Rejoin Jesus

John 4:27-38

Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?"

Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

Meanwhile his disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat something."

But he said to them, "**I have food to eat that you know nothing about.**"

Then his disciples said to each other, "Could someone have brought him food?"

"**My food,**" said Jesus, "**is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.** Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true. I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor."

I hope I would leave a legacy of joy, a legacy of real compassion. Because I think there is a great joy in real compassion. I don't think that you can know joy apart from caring deeply about people, caring enough about people that you actually do something. **I have a feeling like if my life is motivated by my ambition to leave a legacy, what I'll probably leave as a legacy is ambition. But if my life is motivated by the power of the Spirit in me, if I live in the awareness of the indwelling Christ, if I allow His presence to guide my actions, guide my motives, those sorts of things, that's the only time that I think that we really leave a great legacy.**

That which is born of the flesh is flesh. And that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. **My ambition to be a good guy is a fleshly ambition.** And when Christ calls us to take up our cross and follow Him, a lot of us think that what that means is to lay down our vices and we're supposed to cling to virtues. But I think that unless Christ is lord of our virtues, our virtues become dangerous to us and dangerous to the people around us. I think that when Christ calls us to take up our cross, what He means is you must die not only to whatever vices are in your life, which He will eventually kill out, but you must also die to whatever virtues are in your life.

Your life is not valuable because you are an articulate speaker. Your life is not valuable because you are a generous person. Your life is not valuable because of any of that. That if we empty ourselves of everything and allow God to be present, then it's no longer us, it's Him. Then it becomes a spiritual thing. And that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. And that's when I think Christianity really begins to make sense.

-Rich Mullins

## CHALLENGE QUESTIONS

**Consider carefully the verses about ambition, Jesus's words on the left, and Rich Mullins' reflections above. Reread both of their words in bold.**

*Is ambition a good thing, a bad thing, or does it have the potential to be both?*

*What, do you think, should be our ambition?*