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Ben Watson: Don't Trust US to Protect Nigeria's Christians

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"No, I don't. I don't,"

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

Super Bowl champion Benjamin Watson does not trust American leaders to keep protecting Christians in Nigeria on their own - and he said so plainly. "No, I don't. I don't," Watson told Fox News Digital when asked whether he trusted President Trump to continue prioritizing the issue, even though Trump has already ordered a military strike against those targeting Christians in the country. Watson says only public pressure will keep the issue alive, and he is putting his name behind a $1 million campaign to prove it.

The words that cut deepest were not about Trump at all. "I do think that there are double standards," Watson said. "We will exclude certain people from the same type of human dignity that we want for ourselves." Then he named who deserves that dignity, one by one: "I believe that the Palestinian deserves human dignity and respect. I believe that the Jew deserves human dignity and respect. I believe that those in Nigeria who are suffering deserve human dignity, and they have human dignity, and they deserve respect."

Ben Watson And The Stand With Them Campaign For Nigeria

Watson is a former New England Patriots tight end and a Super Bowl champion, and he has spent years using that platform for something larger than football. He is now working with Global Christian Relief on its Stand With Them campaign, which aims to raise $1 million for relief and rebuilding efforts in Nigeria. The campaign supports rebuilding churches and homes, assisting wounded and displaced people, and educating children whose lives have been torn apart by the violence.

His interest in persecuted Christians did not start with a headline. Watson traces it to around 2010, when he was playing for the Cleveland Browns and began learning about believers suffering for their faith around the world. In December 2025, he joined a letter coordinated by Sports Spectrum to Trump and congressional leaders, seeking action on religious persecution in Nigeria. Sixteen years after he first started paying attention, he is still asking the same question: who will stand with them when the cameras move on.

The campaign's goal is concrete, and Watson is blunt about why it matters. A million dollars will not end the killing, but it will rebuild a church, put a roof over a family, and keep a child in school. Today: 17 Christians Die in Captivity After Easter Church Abductions in Kaduna, Nigeria showed what happens when the world looks away - seventeen worshippers kidnapped on Easter Sunday died in captivity, starved and chained together, while four more remain held after more than six months. Money and attention are the two things standing between those families and being forgotten entirely.

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

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