

JESUS' 2ND MOST STRESSFUL DAY

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ANTS when little, have to be one to help them

Heb 2:17-18 For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Heb 4:15-16 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet was without sin. 16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

I. DEMANDS ON JESUS

A. SORROW

Hears about death of John the Baptist

Matthew 14:3-12

John = cousin, common commitment, understand Jesus best
Imagine losing person who knows you better than anyone
what if your dearest friend just murdered ?

B. DANGER

What happened to him would happen to Jesus

Herod making attempt to get Jesus right away - *"Herod tried to see Jesus" Lk 9:9*

Before able to handle this about John another interruption!
Disciples, who had been sent out on mission, returned

C. EXCITEMENT

Mark 6:30 (sent out v 12) Imagine the excitement!!!

Peter describing lame man he healed

John telling of a crowd he taught

Andrew reporting deliverance of an epileptic

Matthew talking @ healing of a blind woman

James telling @ crowds that followed them

Conflicting emotions in Jesus

SORROW over John, anger to self

JOY over their excitement

Another interruption!

D. BEDLAM

Many people coming, no chance to even eat Mk 6:31a

Jesus retreated, withdrew

prioritized, dropped the good for the best

didn't push to get it all done

made quick decisions @ what mattered most

disciples' needs came first (family)

E. CONFUSION

Mark 6:31-32

Great opportunity to preach, teach, heal!

Needs to get away for disciples, Doesn't try to do it all! Lets needs unmet!!!

Us: must often say NO to outside needs, activities

Jesus: Given up is His rest alone, handling death of John

Puts that on HOLD temporarily, trusting God w/ it

Now just trying to meet needs of disciples first

They can't wait, trust God as He, etc.

Sail boat across Sea of Galilee

See Tiberias built by Herod, reminder of John's death

F. DEMANDS

People went there on foot Mark 6:33-34

5,000 men = 25,000 people! - Swarming, pressing, shouting, etc.

Surprise! 6-mile walk and people came!

No time for Jesus' own needs!

No quiet time with disciples, debriefing, campfire

SUMMARY (Jesus knows how you feel!)

Jesus, in one day, faced:

Sorrow (John died)

Danger (Herod after Him)

Excitement (disciples' successful return)

Bedlam (people follow disciples, crowd them)

Distraction (having to sail across Sea of Galilee)

Demands (people awaiting Jesus there)

II. JESUS HANDLES STRESS

A. DISCIPLES HANDLE STRESS

1. DISCIPLES' SUGGESTION: Send Them Away

Matthew 14:15

2. JESUS' TEST: Meet Their Needs

Feed them Matthew 14:16)

TEST for them: *"Do it again!"*

-Just came back from tour seeing miracles done

-Now have faith for more miracles to be done again

3. DISCIPLES' RESPONSE: Insufficient Resources

Response from the disciples?

Tried to meet the problem with their own resources:

Patience for stressful people - Food hungry people

Couldn't do it with own resources

-Not enough food there to distribute

(5 loaves, 2 fish *Matthew 14:17)*

-Not enough \$ to buy food (8 months wages, *Mk 6:37)*

B. JESUS HANDLE STRESS

1. JESUS' TEST: own limits pushed

HE FACED: -all above (top of page)

-disciples no help, make matters worse

No one asked how Jesus was doing **(Jesus knows)**

People more concerned with GETTING than GIVING

2. JESUS' RESPONSE: Compassion

HIS RESPONSE

NOT anger, self pity, try to do it all Himself

BUT paused in the midst of it all to offer prayer of thanks

HOW HAVE SUCH MATURE ATTITUDE?

LOVE for them above love for self! *Mark 6:33-34; Mt 14:14*

III. LISTENING TO ADVICE

A. VOICES THEN

1. CROWD OF PEOPLE

People want to make Him king John 6:14

No cross, no suffering, no sacrifice

Army of disciples at his fingertips

Jesus could have marched His army against Herod and avenged the death of John!

2. DISCIPLES

Send them away! Matthew 14:15

1. MAJORITY of people - crowds around Him

2. CLOSE TO HIM - disciples, best friends

Jesus ALONE against both! (knows how you feel)

PLUS advice they were giving was EASIEST way!

3. VOICES JESUS LISTENED TO

"Jesus withdrew again into hills by Himself." John 6:15

Preferred to be alone with God

NEEDED to be alone with God or may have been swayed!

Crowd too appealing, easy, quick, tempting!

B. VOICES NOW

1. VOICES WE LISTEN TO (Jesus knows)

Others who give advice, easy way, tempting, please them

2. VOICES WE SHOULD LISTEN TO

Get alone and listen to God

HOW TO HEAR GOD'S VOICE

1. What we listen for - still, small voice

ELIJAH: wind, fire, earthquake

2. How we listen - block all out, attentively, focus only on Him

(like listening to SEA SHELL)

JESUS is always speaking to us

What does His voice sound like to you?

Jesus didn't take easy way out (King without going to cross)

Not what crowd or disciples wanted!

IV. THE DISAPPOINTMENT

A. THE DISCIPLE'S DISAPPOINTMENT

Disciples disappointed:

People ready to make Jesus Messiah/King

Army ready, just needed leader, battle plans

But Jesus sent them all away!

Sometimes God does something I don't understand

B. THE MASTER'S DISAPPOINTMENT

1. IN THE PEOPLE

People just using His goodness for free food!

No one likes to be 'used' **(Jesus knows)**

Not really listening to His words, teachings @ kingdom, serving,

Don't want to help God build His kingdom

Just want to use Jesus to build their kingdom on

2. IN THE DISCIPLES

Jesus disappointed in disciple's response

all the work, training, etc. -- they fail!

Before disappearing Jesus sent disciples to boat back

they probably thought He'd walk back with people

people thought He'd boat back with disciples

meanwhile He slipped into hills to pray

IIV. THE CURE FOR DISAPPOINTMENT

A. FOR THE MASTER

Why Jesus spending time praying when so much going on?

Crowd want make Him king – not swayed by pride

Handling John's sudden cruel death

Disciples lack of faith, blinded by ego

Multitudes, see what really is important in life

Self: wisdom, strength, guidance, peace, etc

TRANSITION different solution for the disciples

they weren't ready to get alone with God & pray

in fact were complaining more & more @ how turned out

B. FOR THE DISCIPLES THEN

1. HUMBLE TRUST

HEARTS HARDENED TOWARD JESUS

DISAPPOINTED in Jesus 3x one day!

1. He didn't send the people away but fed them.

Selfish, self-pity, didn't get own way

Wanted Jesus all to themselves

2. A bit proud from recent miss. tour

Young boy used to do miracle, not them

3. Not let people make Him king, them rule in top places

Then without warning a TERRIBLE STORM hit!

Wind, waves - very dangerous

not uncommon on Sea of Galilee (mixing bowl)

Didn't stop – all thought they'd die

Note: -Jesus sent the disciples into the storm

-Jesus knew the storm was coming (it had begun)

-Jesus didn't come join them when storm hit

6 PM storm hit Jn 6:16

6 AM Jesus came walking Mt 14:15

12 hours in boat about to die, no Jesus!

2. FAITH, NOT FEAR

Didn't come as we were expecting Him so they almost missed Him
came: walking on the water! (Looked like a ghost - apparition!)
Many times Jesus doesn't come as we expect, so we miss Him

FAITH OF PETER saved the day

recognized Jesus, jumped out of boat to go to Him
walked a bit, sank, looked to Jesus & lifted up

Would Peter have walked on water if:

- it was a nice, relaxing day & smooth boat ride?
- had not been in boat 12 hrs & almost drowned

Choices:: sure death or crazy chance (take the chance)

Why God allows trials, etc. - Choose fear or faith

Examples: Jews at Red Sea

Naaman dip into river 7x

NOT focus on Peter's failure but that he tried

Do you step out in faith?

SOLUTION: Keep your eyes on JESUS, not trials

Keep eyes on the GOAL - not troubles, disappointments

3. RESPOND IN WORSHIP

But the most amazing part is this:

STORM STOOPED IMMEDIATELY when Jesus got into boat!!!

It's like it just wasn't needed any more!

INSTANTLY REACH SHORE after 12 hours of nothing

RESPONSE: **WORSHIP!**

Disciples didn't worship Jesus when healed, forgiven, etc

Why worship now? (THEIR necks saved!)

C. FOR THE DISCIPLES NOW

WHEN LANDED everyone went back home

all tired, wet (up all night)

No doubt:

Jesus is God

Jesus has a plan and purpose - goal aiming for

Jesus knows what we go through

must've been most stressful day in His life so far

He faced:

Intense sorrow: death of a dear friend & relative

Immediate threat: His name was on wanted posted

Immeasurable joy: homecoming with followers

Immense crowds: people following Him everywhere

Insensitive interruptions: sought rest & got interrupt.

Incredible demands: thousands needing his time

Inept assistance: asked for disciples' help but none

Inaccurate advice: to be king

and it didn't upset or defeat Him

-kept eyes on His Heavenly Father

-committed all His time to doing God's will, not His

carrying out God's will for Him was GOAL