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| Exodus 3:1-6 [Luke 5](http://www.sermoncentral.com/sermons/life-interrupted-tim-shepard-sermon-on-bible-influence-108212):17-26 | Jesus Interruptions | MGV – 9:30am – 19/01/2025Pinelands – 9am – 26/01/2025Thornton – 10:30am – 26/01/2025 |

Over the last two sermons *(month of January)…*

We have mentioned this phrase quite often…

**Mission Is… *“To walk with Jesus in the company of others***

***for the sake of the world.***

Then Last week **Ken Leverton** spoke about…

being aware of ***God’s Voice in our world.***

Today I want to share with you just **one thing,**

From the life of Jesus that…

Causes us to… **STOP** and hopefully **ENGAGE.**

**HEAR God’s Voice.**

***Prayer…***

**We live hectic, busy lives…**

 **Routines…** that are time *pressured and jam packed…*

 **Work…** that is *mentally and physically demanding…*

 **Family…** *expectations that never end.*

**When we are** **INTERRUPTED…**

 We get frustrated… even angry

We go into a tailspin.

The *boat begins to rock.*

 **Very Few of Us** enjoy or like **INTERRUPTIONS.**

 …unless we do not like what we are doing.

 Then we call that PROCRASTINATION.

**But…** Life is full of **INTERRUPTIONS…**

**Even Jesus** was **INTERRUPTED.**

Can you think of a time when Jesus… was “INTERRUPTED”?

 *(Response)*

What **Gospel Stories** can you think of…

 Where people interrupted Jesus?

 *Woman* who *touched his garment*

 *Lady washing Jesus’ feet* at dinner

 *Jesus calms the storm* (sleep was interrupted)

 *Wedding at Cana*

 Many of the *healing stories*

Can you think of times when Jesus…

**“INTERRUPTED”** the life of others? *(Response)*

What **Gospel Stories** can you think of…

Where Jesus interrupted people?

**Jesus** *calling his disciples*

 **Jesus** *walking on the water*

 **Jesus** *clearing the Temple*

Let us read the **Gospel Story** from **Luke 5:17-26**

In this passage there are **2 Interruptions** and **1 Result…**

Each is important in its own way.

**First INTERRUPTION…** Jesus is TEACHING.

There is a **huge crowd…** in the house and outside…

 Lots of people… *(from all over)*

Listening to the Teaching of Jesus.

 People had come from ***“every town in…***

***Galilee and Judea and Jerusalem…”***

*(Jerusalem – Galilee +/- 90km)*

just to hear him speak.

In fact it was **so crowded** in and around this house that…

the friends of the paralyzed man **couldn’t…**

**even push through the crowd** to get near Jesus.

**SO…** As the Story goes…

They climbed on the roof and began removing tiles.

 ***AND…***  **INTERRUPTED the proceedings.**

**INTERRUPTIONS happen.** They are a fact of life.

We are going to be interrupted…

 No matter how… important you are,

No matter… what you are doing…

There will always come a time when…

You will be **INTERRUPTED** in the middle of it.

**SO…** **Jesus gets** **INTERRUPTED…**

**Imagin the Scene…** *(Picture what is happening)*

Jesus teaching this crowd…

People are pressing in all around him…

It is **hot** and people are **sweaty**

A little dust begins to fall… Maybe more

*(One version of the Scripture say…*

***“They had to cut through the roof.”****)*

**Eventually…** Clumps of soil and maybe bits of Wood

Begin to fall.

 **People** are getting ***frustrated, distracted.***

**Jesus…** simply looks up knowingly. *(Scripture is sparse on details)*

As the ***Stretcher / Bedroll*** is lowered…

 I guess.. People stare… People are puzzled…

 People get angry.

 People quietly think… ***“How Rude”***

**BUT…** **Not Jesus…**

Jesus didn’t get mad or angry… ***As we might…***

He simply took it in his stride… Jesus is Calm.

**Jesus** sees ***how much Faith is expressed…*** and he says…

 ***“Your sins are forgiven, my Friend”*** (vs 20)

 That is His response…

 **Jesus…** ***Stops and Engages*** *(last week)*

The **Second** **INTERRUPTION** happens when…

 **Jesus interrupts** the thoughts of the ***Pharisees and the Teachers***

**Luke 5:22-24…**

 ***“Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them,***

***"Why do you think such things? Is it easier to say,***

***'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'?***

***I will prove to you, then, that the Son of Man has authority***

***on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the paralyzed man,***

***"I tell you, get up, pick up your bed, and go home!"***

**Jesus interrupts** their ***very thoughts*** and **He interrupts** their ***lives.***

God does this more often than we realize…

**God** **INTERRUPTS** our ***lives*** to get our ***ATTENTION.***

**It’s happened before. *Many times…***

**Moses** was out tending his sheep when…

God interrupted his life with a **burning bush.**

**Saul** was on his way to persecuting more Christians when…

God interrupted his plans **on the Damascus road.**

**Joseph and Mary** were planning on getting married when…

God interrupted their lives with the news that

they would be the **earthly parents of the Savior.**

**Jesus** had a plan when he ***interrupted the Pharisees*** that day too.

He needed to get their **ATTENTION…**

**SO** he stopped their thoughts in their tracks…

And **He said…**

 ***“I will prove to you, then, that the Son of Man has***

 ***authority on earth to forgive sins."***

**Jesus…** ***Stops and Engages*** *(last week)*

**Finally** we see that…

**INTERRUPTIONS…** can bring about **Changed Lives.**

**Look at** the **life of** **Moses…** *(Because of the Interruption)*

He led a stubborn people out of captivity.

He followed God at all costs to himself…

and overcame an inability to lead.

**Look at** the **life of** **Paul…** *(Because of the Interruption)*

He ***changed*** from killing Christians…

***To being*** one of them.

Then inspiring others to put their full faith in God.

**Look at** the **life of Mary and Joseph…**

Who witnessed the birth of a child…

destined to save the world.

**ALL** because **God had a plan** when…

**He INTERRUPTED their Lives.**

***CHANGED LIVES*** is an incredible to ***WITNESS.***

**Personally,** I very nearly left the ministry to…

 follow a career in Nature conservation.

 I had it ***all planned out…***

 Qualified in a rangers course,

 Secured a job,

 Written my letter of resignation

 **AND…** **God interrupted…**

 **And here I am today.**

**Sermon Prep…** Often gets **interrupted** by a *visit or a phone call*

**Life…** Often gets **interrupted**

**INTERRUPTIONS** *can bring about* **Changed Lives…**

**Look at** the **Young Man** on the **Stretcher…**

His Sins are forgiven…

Then **Jesus** says… ***“Pick up your bed, and go home.”***

An **INTERRUPTION** that he had caused **changed his life.**

***Jesus made it so that he could walk.***

**Jesus INTERRUPTED** the thoughts of the **Pharisees.**

And lives were ***changed*** in that moment.

***Maybe you’re facing*** an **INTERRUPTION** now…

You’re in the middle of a **Divorce.**

You are **facing a problem**… you don’t have the answer to.

 You are working through the **death of a loved one.**

 A **difficult situation** at work.

 A **disagreement** with a friend.

 A **visit or phone call** at a strange moment.

 A **Strong Feeling** or **Thought**

Let me tell you what I have **LEARNED…**

 **INTERRUPTIONS…**

**Occur** all the time…

 **INTERRUPTIONS…**

Often **Come from God.**

Let us Pray the following prayer together… *(on the Screen)*

Father God.

We pray that we may be authentic followers of Jesus.

Help us to walk with Jesus in the company of others

for the sake of the world.

Help us Lord that as we live life, We would STOP and ENGAGE with those around us.

When we are interrupted Lord, help us to see you in that moment and to be aware of the Holy Spirit leading us to realise your work and plans.

All this for the Glory of Your Kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Amen

**Exodus 3:1-6** **God Calls Moses**

One day while Moses was taking care of the sheep and goats of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian, he led the flock across the desert and came to Sinai, the holy mountain. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him as a flame coming from the middle of a bush. Moses saw that the bush was on fire but that it was not burning up. “This is strange,” he thought. “Why isn't the bush burning up? I will go closer and see.”

When the Lord saw that Moses was coming closer, he called to him from the middle of the bush and said, “Moses! Moses!”

He answered, “Yes, here I am.”

God said, “Do not come any closer. Take off your sandals, because you are standing on holy ground. I am the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.” So Moses covered his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

**Luke 5:17-26** **Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man**

One day when Jesus was teaching, some Pharisees and teachers of the Law were sitting there who had come from every town in Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem. The power of the Lord was present for Jesus to heal the sick. Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a bed, and they tried to carry him into the house and put him in front of Jesus. Because of the crowd, however, they could find no way to take him in. So they carried him up on the roof, made an opening in the tiles, and let him down on his bed into the middle of the group in front of Jesus. When Jesus saw how much faith they had, he said to the man, “Your sins are forgiven, my friend.”

The teachers of the Law and the Pharisees began to say to themselves, “Who is this man who speaks such blasphemy! God is the only one who can forgive sins!”

Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, “Why do you think such things? Is it easier to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? I will prove to you, then, that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the paralyzed man, “I tell you, get up, pick up your bed, and go home!”

At once the man got up in front of them all, took the bed he had been lying on, and went home, praising God. They were all completely amazed! Full of fear, they praised God, saying, “What marvelous things we have seen today!”