****

***EdgeGodIn.com*:**

*Dear Lord, you allowed yourself to be interrupted for the sake of healing, encouragement, love, teachable moments and overall presence to those in need. Grant me the grace of the PAUSE to stop in the midst of all my doing and accomplishing to make myself present to those divine appointments that allow you to be recognizable in my ability to listen, love, heal and edify those people who cross my path today. I give you permission to override my EGO and ignite my desire to surrender my agenda for the sake of one soul who needs a word of encouragement, an act of kindness, the gift of love on their journey of life. You put people above things, over your to-do lists and between your travel itinerary, grant me the grace to do the same for the sake of salvation of souls, the one mission that unleashes eternity on earth. I also give you permission to interrupt me in the shadow. The place where I forget that you are bigger than circumstance and will bring about a greater good than had the trial never occurred. Interrupt me when I think I am my struggle and remind me of my identity and purpose in and through you.*

**Edge God In Podcast Week 22: Jesus Was Interruptible…Are You?**

In Podcast 21: *Nothing Thrives in a State of War*: You learned specific scriptures and practices to help you step away from the power struggle that fuels ugly talk, stone throwing and combat behavior and communication. In today’s podcast you will explore the power of being interruptible as you reflect on the Gospel of Luke and the numerous times Jesus was interrupted to accomplish God’s work and ministry on earth.

Learn:

*Martha, Martha, Martha…you are so caught up in all of your doing and achieving, rushing around…where are you going in such a hurry? You are missing the opportunity to reflect and act upon what is truly important: faith, expressing itself through love. Love pauses. Love notices those in need. Love seeks out an opportunity to edify and encourage. Love puts the needs of another before its own. Love allows itself to be interrupted for a greater good than the task at hand. Love returns 10-fold, abundant joy and peace to those who allow themselves to be interrupted for the sake of more love in the world.*

In our society we are rushing around, so busy, we have forgotten our greatest source for joy and peace: loving those around us. We have gone so far as to create barriers around ourselves to prevent interruptions so that we can accomplish what we need to accomplish. There is nothing wrong with healthy boundaries to accomplish high priorities in life. This is a behavior that offers positive impact on business as well as effective management of a home.

The practice of preventing interruptions is good until you start to put things (accomplishments and to-do lists) above the opportunity to encourage and/or edify another human being in need that God has put in your path. This takes discernment. Jesus also interrupted people when they thought they were their struggle: the woman caught in adultery, the woman at the well, the paralyzed man. He interrupts us when we are hiding in the shadow of our despair, judgments, positionality, fear, self-doubt and worry. Are you interruptible in the eye of the storm for God’s healing and restoration to step in?

Reflect:

In the book of Luke, Jesus was interrupted in the midst of other tasks, including travel, approximately 23 times:

* **Luke 2:41:** At the festival of Passover Jesus stayed to learn and ask questions in His Father’s House…his parents realized he was not with them and after 3 days found him. As a young boy, *Jesus paused to embrace the opportunity to listen, ask questions and learn.*
* **Luke 4:33-35** Jesus was teaching in the synagogue when a man possessed by the foul spirit of a demon interrupted him with loud cries, yelling at Jesus: “I know who you are!” Jesus rebuked the demon after a fit and the man was restored to his right mind. *Jesus was not only teaching the way of God, He acted it out and was unattached to his preaching and teaching, willing to be interrupted for a greater good.*  A powerful question to ask when interrupted: “Is this mine, or someone else’s?” Sometimes an interruption is an opportunity to delegate to the point person of the need at hand OR remind the person of the resources they have to work through the issue and access solution. Be willing to be used and remain curious.
* **Luke 4:38-44:** While visiting Simon Peter’s house Jesus heals Simon Peter’s mother-in-law. *Instead of taking a moment to rest and retreat Jesus is constantly called back into the mission of selfless love and healing of others. He was interruptible.*
* **Luke 5:1-11:** Jesus was teaching by the lake. He paused and went fishing with Peter. *The result of that pause led to one of the most powerful leaders of The Way who was willing to surrender everything for the sake of preaching the Gospel Message, including his life.*
* **Luke 5:12-14:** In one of the towns Jesus was preaching in He encountered a man with leprosy who asked Jesus to heal him…Jesus PAUSED and healed him. *The result? The news about Jesus spread like wild fire and huge crowds came to hear him and experience healing.*
* **Luke 5:17:** As Jesus was teaching the Pharisees and teachers of the law, he was interrupted by men who lowered through the roof their paralyzed friend in front of Him. Can you imagine in the midst of an intense lecture, keynote or presentation being interrupted mid-stream?
* **Luke 6:6:** Again, Jesus is in the midst of executing a lesson plan and is interruptible to heal a man with a shriveled hand on the Sabbath.
* **Luke 6:19:** Jesus is surrounded by people who come from all over to hear him, be healed, including those troubled by impure Spirits…all were cured. Remember, our battle is not against flesh and blood but against the spiritual forces of evil waging war against our souls. Are you troubled by an impure spirit? Is God putting a person in your life who is troubled by an impure spirit manifesting in negative behavior? Be open to interruptions that offer the opportunity to sow seeds of hope, faith and love.
* **Luke 7:2:** As Jesus entered Capernaum a centurion Soldier sent elders to ask Jesus to come and heal his servant. Jesus went with them. The result? *Faith unleashed to heal the servant without Jesus going to the Soldier’s home.*
* **Luke 7:11:** Jesus went to a town called Nain, as he approached the gate he encountered a dead person being carried out. He was interruptible to pause, heal the only son of his mother and flip her grief into rejoicing in God’s favor.
* **Luke 7:36:** While dining at a Pharisee’s home Jesus was interrupted by a “sinful” woman who anoints His feet with her tears and receives forgiveness and freedom.
* **Luke 8:23-27:** Jesus was sleeping in the boat while His disciples battled a storm. Fear got the best of them and they woke Jesus up. Jesus calmed the storm and said, “Oh you of little faith way did you doubt?”
* **Luke 8:26-39:** Jesus lands the boat on His way to the region of Gerasenes He is met by a demon-possessed man. He casts out the many evil spirits into the pigs and the man is freed.
* **Luke 8:40-56:** On His journey Jesus pauses to heal Jarius’s daughter and a woman who was bleeding for 12 years. He was interrupted after being interrupted.
* **Luke 9:37:** Coming down off the mountain after the transfiguration Jesus pauses to respond to the plea of a man for healing of his demon possessed son.
* **Luke 13:10:** While teaching in the synagogue on the Sabbath a woman, a daughter of Abraham, who was crippled by an evil spirit for 18 years, bent over and could not stand moved Jesus with compassion and He paused and set her free from her infirmity.
* **Luke 14:2:** While eating at the house of a prominent Pharisee, a man was suffering from dropsy. Again, it was the Sabbath. Jesus paused and healed him.
* **Luke 18:15-17:** The disciples tried to keep the children from Jesus and Jesus invited them closer.
* **Luke 18:35-42:** As Jesus was on His way to Jericho a blind man was on the roadside begging…”Jesus, Son of David…have mercy on me!” The disciples rebuked him and Jesus stopped and invited the man to His side: “What do you want me to do for you?” The man replied, “Lord, I want to see.” His sight was restored!
* **Luke 19: 1-9:** Jesus was interrupted by Zacchaeus the tax collector. He paused and went to his house, ate with his friends and as a result Zacchaeus repented from his sinful ways and salvation entered his life. Jesus was constantly on the lookout to seek and save the lost.
* **Luke 21:1-4:** Jesus paused and noticed the widow’s humble offering…think small not BIG…Jesus honors the small humble acts of love and kindness.
* **Luke 23:26:** Paused in the midst of the crucifixion to speak to the women who were weeping.
* **Luke 23:34:** On the cross Jesus paused and prayed for the people: “Father forgive them they don’t know what they are doing.”
* **Luke 23:40-43:** Jesus was interrupted on the cross by the criminal who said: “Remember me Jesus when you enter your Kingdom.” Jesus showed compassion and love in the midst of His intense suffering: “Today you will be will me in paradise.”
* **Luke 24:13-33:** Road to Emmaus. Jesus walked with the disciples and stayed with them. They did not recognize him until he broke bread.

Identify & Adjust:

Identify specific areas in your life where you grip onto your agenda so tightly that you are unable to tune into the needs and perspectives of those around you:

* Do you feel frustrated when people interrupt you with a need that from the eternal perspective is bigger than the task at hand? *For example, you are working on your computer and your child needs help with a question on homework, you say you will be right there and spend another ½ hour working on your computer OR your spouse lets you know that dinner is ready, you share that you will be right there and you continue to work on your task until dinner is cold, your spouse continues to remind you and your frustration grows.*
* Have you ever been interrupted while resting and experienced resentment or anger? *Consider Jesus intense schedule packed with healing after healing, keynote presentations teaching on the Kingdom of God one after the other.*
* When have you PAUSED for the sake of another in need and the result ended up edifying more than the person you helped? *For example, you stop to help someone who has just dumped their purse upside down by accident as they are rushing to catch a flight. You stop and help. The result? The hurried mom of three young children made their flight which allowed them to be by the bedside of their Grandparent who was about to transition into Jesus arms. God is the best Multi-Level-Marketer when it comes to random acts of kindness.*

Maintain:

* Do your actions align with what you value most in life? Do you value kindness? Do you value family? Do you value being an ambassador for Christ? Explore your behavior today and notice how your choice of response to interruptions align with what you value most…or not.
* Ask for the grace to be attentive to the divine interruptions that God puts in your day that offer an opportunity to glorify God and express love in action or perhaps receive His love and forgiveness. Ask, is this interruption an opportunity to make you recognizable in this person’s life today? To restore the dark side of my personality into His light? Perhaps it will be to simply remind the person of their ability to tune into creative solutions therefore edifying and recognizing their gifts and talents that too often get lost in the midst of high demands.
* Highlight your top three scripture references from today’s study and meditate on what the Holy Spirit is speaking to you about those scriptures. Ask how specifically you can shift from being achievement oriented to people oriented for the sake of salvation of souls and making God recognizable to the people who interrupt you on your way…to being busy. Which person do you identify with the most when it comes to hiding in the shadow of suffering? To be interruptible, it is essential to practice attentiveness to the longing of our Lord to have us choose life over death, light over darkness and healing over despair. Jesus thirsts for our attentiveness to His healing touch in our lives so that we can participate in the healing restoration in the lives of the people he entrusts to our care.
* Too often busyness is linked to worth and value which results in a not-that…then…THEN I will be enough…THEN I will feel successful…THEN I will feel safe and secure. As Jesus said, *“You fool, this very night your life will be demanded of you…who then will enjoy what you have accomplished.”* Stay awake, keep watch. Be attentive to the opportunities Jesus will flip in front of you today for the purpose of interrupting your plans to make room for His plans.
* Which game are you playing? The eternal or the finite game of life? The eternal game is God focused and other people oriented. The eternal game of life offers many opportunities for learning and growth through a variety of interruptions and pauses to create Godly character for an ultimate good on earth far beyond self. The finite game is self-oriented fast and furious, pushy, demanding and insecure with little patience and a lot of frustration due to the inconvenience of being slowed down by interruptions. The choice is yours and will make ALL the difference in the outcome you experience. Be interruptible for those tasks that make God recognizable on earth. Surrender your will to His, be willing to pause for His purposes.

*Dear God, fill me with attentiveness to your plans over mine. Help me to release my grip on my own agenda to make room for yours. You allowed yourself to be available to those in need and as a result, the words you spoke spread like wildfire across the land. Help me to love, listen and respond with Godly character that gives witness to my position as your ambassador. Interrupt my day to make you recognizable to the people around me. Make your appeal for love and healing through my ability to pause and respond to your voice. Give me eyes so I can see everything that I’ve been missing because of my big, bright, shiny to-do list. I want to be interruptible for the sake of salvation of souls and for God’s good work in this world.*

**Surround yourself with people who make you a better person in life**