

Interruptions

John 4:46-54

As I read the gospels, it seems that most of Jesus' miracles, most of His teaching opportunities, most of His chances to display His Father's words and works, arrived as interruptions. As He went about His day, He encountered people--all kinds of people: hungry people, sick people, seeking people, devious people, desperate people. People were His priority. And let's face it: people are the main source of interruptions. Deal with people, dare to respond to people, and you'll have interruptions.

We resent interruptions because they intrude on our agenda. Jesus had no agenda but the Father's. Thus He didn't resent interruptions because He received them as from His Father. He welcomed them as opportunities to express God's grace and truth in the lives of needy people. He dove into such opportunities with all His heart and soul.

We flinch at interruptions because they are unexpected and unsought. They blind-side us and drag us where we're not prepared to go. Jesus was completely and comfortably dependent on His Father, so He was never threatened by the unexpected.

I deeply desire God's moment-by-moment leading. He is teaching me that such leading inevitably involves what I have called "interruptions". His wisdom, His leadership, His opportunities for service are often unexpected and unsought. They are intrusions on my well-planned agenda. Of course, there are times when the agenda is from Him and the interruption is not. I can't and shouldn't chase every rabbit, and I'll need His discernment to tell them apart. But very often, interruptions only threaten my agenda, not His.

Over my years of serving the Lord, I've noticed two things about interruptions:

1. As a writer, many of my most meaningful pieces arrived as interruptions. While I was intently working on something else, He gifted me with something more important, something better.
2. When He interrupts my carefully-planned schedule, nothing is ever lost. Nothing. God never fights against His own work. I have no reason to be afraid and protective. He often surprises me with increased productivity, and all His work gets done in a natural, unhurried way.

Join with me in learning to be more flexible, more trusting, more responsive to God's leading. As older writers put it, be as responsive to the Spirit as a feather on a breeze. No matter what type of work we do, as Christians, people are our priority, and people bring interruptions. But God's interruptions are always opportunities. Welcome them! After all, for blind and ignorant creatures like us, such interruptions are inherent in the privilege of serving the transcendent God. His thoughts and ways are far above our own.

He wants to make your life more fruitful in unexpected ways. Are you willing to let Him?

Listen & Sing: "Lead Me On"
Visit: www.LNWhymns.com/LeadMeOn

© 2013 by Ken Bible.