

The University Heights Messenger

September 12, 2010

Interruptions

By Jason Moore

Interruptions are not only a part of life, they are a necessary albeit unpleasant part. The unpleasanties we can all enumerate. Whose supper has not been disrupted by some sales call? Who hasn't been delayed in traffic or road construction? Who hasn't been engaged in a conversation only to have someone cut them off just as they were making their point?

We could all add to the list of daily interruptions that try our patience. Case in point, I've had to stop to answer the phone four times in the course of writing this article so far. But there are some benefits to be derived from life's interruptions.

Interruptions sometimes bring opportunities. A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell among thieves who, after stripping and wounding him, left him half dead. And "by chance," the Scriptures says, there came down a certain priest, and likewise a Levite, and a certain Samaritan who was on a journey (Luke 10:30-33). Opportunities, like interruptions, often come "by chance." Perhaps that is because the circumstances which bring opportunities (the thievery, in this case) are "by chance."

Not all three men who encountered the victim of the theft were interrupted. Two of the men simply changed their course and passed by on the other side. The Levite even stopped to look on him, to rubberneck, before moving on. It is interesting however that the text says that only the Samaritan who stopped to be a neighbor had some place to go. He was on a journey (verse 23).

Interruptions then can become opportunities depending upon our reaction to them.

Some interruptions may even be providential. Jesus and the disciples withdrew to a deserted place to rest, only to be interrupted by the multitudes who followed Him there (Mark 6). Peter and John were stopped by a lame man at the Beautiful Gate as they were about to go into the temple (Acts 3). Paul's preaching efforts in Macedonia were interrupted by the demon-possessed slave girl, then by her masters who saw Paul beaten and cast in prison (Acts 16).

All three of the occasions above, and numerous others which could be cited, provided audiences for the hearing of the gospel. So perhaps we should revise what we've said about interruptions being unplanned, chance ruptures of our schedules. Maybe sometimes their planned by God.

Interruptions teach us patience. Someone may interrupt you about something unimportant in your estimation, but it may be important to them. Have you not done the same? Could it not be that you'll need to call upon someone for help in the future and interrupt their schedule? Have you not interrupted other's conversations because you had something you thought so important to say? You may be the one in the stalled car holding up traffic tomorrow. So show some consideration to others in need.

Jesus had to deal with interruptions. Jesus had important work to do. But He had time for children. "Suffer them to come to me," He said.

Jesus had places to go. He was leaving Jericho for the consummation of His

work in Jerusalem when blind Bartimaeus cried for Him. The crowd tried to silence the blind beggar, but Jesus “stood still” and called for him (Mark 10:49).

Jesus had people to see. He was invited to dine with a certain Pharisee, Simon (Luke 7). The meal was interrupted by the woman, a sinner, who came and annointed His feet with her tears, and dried them with her hair. How would you feel to be singled out by someone of sordid reputation when in the company of some notable? The host was offended. Jesus was forgiving. Some of Jesus’ greatest lessons and certainly greatest examples of conduct came when He was interrupted.

It occurs to me how often we must interrupt God. We call upon Him when we need help out of some fix into which we brought ourselves. We miss the point of the trial or blessing or the opportunity that He has given us and use it for our own selfishness rather than for His glory.

He speaks to us through His Word and through His messengers and we cut Him off because we have other matters about which to think, other matters to attend, other opinions than His. We let sin come in and spoil our relationship with Him. And yet He interrupts our lives only to help, to save.

May we interrupt Him less, and let Him trouble us more, and may we turn life’s interruptions into heaven’s opportunities.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Alexander Litmer is recovering from a small case of pneumonia.

Let’s remember the **Warfel** family after the tragic death of **Darlene** in a motorcycle accident.

Our members: **Glenn Davis, Glenn Kimberlin**

Others:**Robert and Sarah Brundige, Kay Montgomery, Jean Gartland, Ruel Baker, Wes Kidd, Vera Howerton, Gail Stein, Glenn Goldy, Shannon Gilbert, Chuck McDavitt, the Shamas family.**

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Our meeting is just a week away (September 19-24). Remember that Monday through Friday is specifically designed for non Christians. Who will you invite?

The men’s meeting is this afternoon at 3:30.

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

Sunday: Neh 11, Ps 38, Luke 2
Monday: Neh 12-13, Ps 39, Luke 3
Tuesday: Est 1-2, Ps 40, Luke 4
Wednesday: Est 3-5, Ps 41, Luke 5
Thursday: Est 6-10, Ps 42, Luke 6
Friday: Job 1, Ps 43, Luke 7
Saturday: Job 2-4, Ps 44, Luke 8

SERMON TOPICS:

Sunday AM. The Merging Image 4
“But God chose what is foolish”
(1 Corinthians 1:26-29)

Sunday PM. “How have you loved us?”
(Malachi 1:1-3)