

# Hearing the Voice of Jesus: What it Means to Follow Him Today

**Dec. 23, 2015**  
**“Interrupt Me”**



# Hearing the Voice of Jesus

- **November 11—“Follow Me”**
- **November 18—“Listen to Me”**
- **November 25—[Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner]**



# Hearing the Voice of Jesus

- **December 2—“Understand Me”**
- **December 9—“Crowd Me”**
- **December 16—“Touch Me”**
- **December 23—“Interrupt Me”**
- **December 30—“Fear Me”**



# Hearing the Voice of Jesus

- **January 6—“Believe Me”**
- **January 13—“Pray with Me”**
- **January 20—“Suffer with Me”**
- **January 27—“Preach Me”**



# December 23—“Interrupt Me”

## Introduction

- How do we handle interruptions?
- [even as I was creating this Power Point—call for 2 coats for little children!]
- Interruptions connected to Needs



# Introduction

- **Interruptions have deep spiritual meaning & significance=2<sup>nd</sup> commandment!**



# Introduction

- **Interruptions come in many and various forms: phone calls, flat tire, unexpected deadlines, accidents, someone drops by...etc.**
- **Interruptions can cause undue impatience**
- **Spiritual direction...what might God be preparing me for, what kind of ministry needs to happen because of this interruption?**
- **Gospel of Mark for me several years ago**

# “Immediately” in Mark

- Matthew, Luke & John uses “immediately” eleven times.
- Mark uses it **42** times!
- Mark is telling us that Jesus is busy
- He was pressed by demands on His time and schedule
- Focus on 7 events in Mark



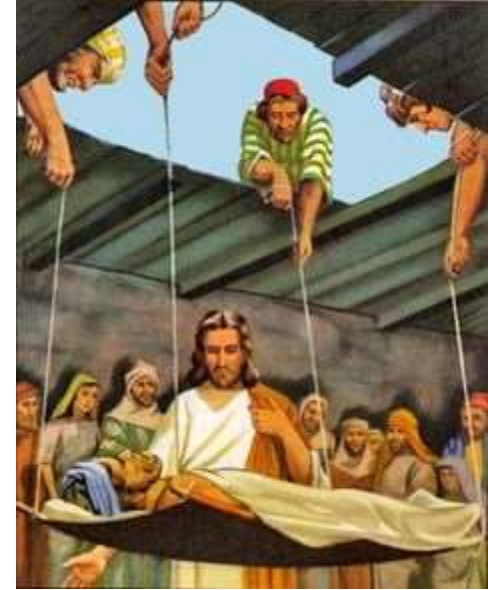
# Event #1—Looking for solitude

- **Mark 1:35-37**
- **Jesus finds a solitary place and time**
- **In the middle of his prayer...**
- **“Everyone is looking for you.”**



# Event #2—Teaching a Lesson

- **Mark 2:1-12**
- **Jesus is teaching in Capernaum**
- **Large crowd so that not everyone could fit into the room**
- **Just as he reaches a significant point in his lesson...a loud, messy interruption occurs. The roof just over his head caves in.**
- **Faith, forgiveness, healing**



## Event #3—Trying to Eat

- **Mark 3:20-21**
- **Man with deformed hand healed**
- **Pharisees stubborn & accusing**
- **So busy, trying to find time to eat!**
- **Family tries to intervene & interrupt**
- **Means well, but important lesson regarding kingdom divided against itself**



# Event #4—Seeking Some Rest

- **Mark 4:35-41**
- Long exhausting day
- Jesus asleep on the cushion in the stern of the boat
- A great storm of wind arose
- Disciples, woke him up. “Do you not care if we perish?” Programmatic for Mark’s gospel!



# Event #6—Time with apostles



- **Mark 6:30-44**
- **Come away by yourselves**
- **Went to a lonely place**
- **Ran on foot and got there ahead of them**
- **Had compassion on the great throng**
- **Feeds the 5,000**

# Event #7—Walking on the Water



- **Mark 6:45-52**
- **Made disciples go in a boat**
- **Dismissed the crowd**
- **He saw them making headway in the boat painfully slow**
- **Take heart; it is I; have no fear**
- **Their hearts were hardened**

# Event #5—Preparing to Speak

- **Mark 5:21-43**
- **Jesus about ready to speak to a great crowd**
- **Jairus came and fell at his feet**
- **He begged and urged Jesus...Jesus went with him**
- **Interruption was interrupted!**
- **Woman with blood problem for 12 years!**





# Conclusion

- **Jesus dealt with people in a way that let them know they could interrupt him. His style of ministry invited such. Why? Because He saw interruptions as His work rather than hindrances to His work!**