

St Martins C3 – December 3, 2023

Jesus is Disruptive

Sermon Notes:

As we come to Christmas, we reflect on what Jesus' coming means by looking at who Jesus is. The early stories of Jesus reveal his purpose all along.

Today, we are going to see how Jesus is disruptive. From birth to death to resurrection Jesus does a lot of disrupting.

Read Luke 2:8-20

These shepherds had a lowly job and it was hard work. By the time night came they would have been ready for a break, but the angel breaks their relaxation with a big announcement. The Saviour has been born.

The angel asks nothing of the Shepherds, so they could have said they were tired and gone to check it out the next day. However, the shepherds knew that being disrupted from the life you thought you wanted for the life you are called to have is a high priority.

Jesus is disruptive. He turned these guys from sheep-guarding field sitters to heralds of a new reality. This is what Jesus did all through his life. He disrupts fishermen, tax collectors, and prostitutes. He disrupts the religious leaders and the rulers of the time. He disrupted history, splitting time in two.

Jesus is in the disruption business. He also wants to disrupt us. Yet, not all disruptions are bad. If we allow Jesus to disrupt us there will be three results.

Peace

The angels told the shepherds that the coming of Jesus would bring peace on earth. When Jesus enters your life it is disruptive but it is the pathway to a blessing of peace for all who accept his disruption.

Joy

Knowing Jesus brings us joy. It is like the joy of giving away a million dollars. It is a deep contentment and pleasure to be loved by the King of the Universe. The path to that destination may be long, but when you find Jesus the result is joy.

Purpose

There is nothing wrong with an ordinary life. But there is something wrong with an apathetic life. Jesus disrupts us in a way that puts a deep purpose behind everything that we do.

We need to allow Jesus to become more than a passing interruption, but a transforming moment in the story of our lives. We need to surrender ourselves and let him change us.

It doesn't just end with us, but we can see him disrupt us with opportunities to bring this peace, joy and purpose to others.

We need to make sure we are ready for these opportunities. The next time we have a distraction that stops us from getting things done, why not ask God if this is Him disrupting us with His plan?

Questions for Connect Groups:

What is your favourite part about Christmas?

What stood out to you from today's message?

What does this message tell you about God?

What does this message tell you about humans?

How would you complete the phrase: "Jesus is ..."

What does it mean that Jesus is disruptive?

What would have changed for the shepherds after the visitation of the angels?

How has Jesus disrupted your life?

How did you respond to Jesus' disruption?

What would your life be like if Jesus hadn't disrupted you?

How has Jesus' disruption led you to greater peace, joy and purpose?

What is Jesus disrupting you with right now?

Songs from Today:

Hark the Herald Angels Sing, You Light Me Up, A Thousand Hallelujahs,
Here and Now, Surrender All

Monday's Devotion – Jesus Disrupts Peter

Read Luke 5:1-11

Jesus is in the disruption business. When He was on earth, He often disturbed people's lives and called them to something new and better. This week in our devotions we will take the time to look at some of these moments and situations and see what the disruption of Jesus can do for our lives.

The first of these situations is when Jesus calls Simon Peter and others. These fishermen were going about their everyday life working hard. First, Jesus asks them to set their boat out so that He can teach. This would have been quite inconvenient for them, especially after a night of fishing.

Then Jesus has the nerve to tell them how to do their job asking them to fish again. They catch a massive amount of fish, which is when Simon realises that he is dealing with more than an ordinary man.

Jesus calls Simon to follow Him and he leaves His whole life behind and chooses to follow.

When God calls us He asks us to be willing to leave all we are and follow Him. We may not leave our jobs, but we choose to live according to a new purpose. The purpose of seeing God's Kingdom come in all that we do.

Pray and reflect on the way God called you to follow Him and the difference it has made in your life.

Tuesday's Devotion – Jesus Disrupts Followers

Read Luke 9:57-62

Imagine someone who commits their life to Jesus, but then says to you: “Now, what is in it for me? If I am going to follow Jesus, I have expectations. I have some conditions. If He is King of the Universe, then surely, I live in His blessing now, right? Healing, prosperity, and success are what I get, aren't they? Jesus will help me get ahead in the world?”

How would you respond to that person? They almost have it, but there seems to be something they do not quite understand.

That is what Jesus is faced with here. He has made an impact on these people, but they seem unwilling to allow Him to fully change their lives and hearts.

It's important to know here that Jesus is not anti-family; he is anti-excuses. He can see through their deflections and perceive what is happening in their heart.

What about us? How do we reject Jesus' disruption? Is it an over-realised commitment to our job, family or future success? These things can be good, but when we seek them more than the things of God, they draw us away from him.

Jesus will interrupt our lives, but it is up to us to respond to what He offers and follow Him with all that we have.

Pray and ask God to show you whether you have given everything to Him or whether you need to respond in another area of your life.

Wednesday's Devotion – Jesus Disrupts the Temple

Read Matthew 21:12-16; Hebrews 11:4-8

Jesus' disruptions weren't always nice and gentle. This one was one of the most emotional and wrathful moments of Jesus' life.

He overturns the tables and condemns the people who are making a profit from the worship of others.

There are times in our lives when Jesus will come with a gentle whisper guiding us by His Spirit that we are not behaving in a way that is consistent with Him. However, there will be other times when we have strayed so far from what He wants from us that His discipline will feel a lot more like anger. Especially, when our disobedience is a stumbling block from others connecting with Him.

As Hebrews 11 tells us, in our struggle against sin there will be times when we undergo the discipline of God. We should not feel too chastised by this, but see it as part of us being in God's family.

Where have you felt the anger and chastisement of God in your life? Is it through a natural consequence of your actions or guilt and disconnection from God? These disruptions are opportunities for us to re-evaluate and turn ourselves back to God again. Welcome them.

Pray and ask God to show you how you need to bring your life back in life with Him.

Thursday's Devotion – Jesus Disrupts Paul

Read Acts 9:1-19

Saul felt that he was on a mission from God. Instead, he was on a mission against God. He had a blindness to the new Christian movement and believed that He was called to destroy it. He believed it so militantly he killed to prevent it from growing.

Yet, God had a special job for Saul. He knew that if Saul could remove His spiritual blindness He would make people see. So, He caused a physical blindness that was only healed once his spiritual blindness was removed.

Saul then became Paul and one of the most influential evangelists the world has ever seen.

As we reflect on the times God has disrupted us we can see how He has called us out of our spiritual blindness as well. We may not have had a road-to-Damascus experience, but there will have been a moment when God revealed himself and asked you to see who He really was and change your life.

As you ponder that experience, may you again commit yourself to seeing the world the way that He sees it and living for Him.

Pray and thank God for the way that He saved you and called you into a new way of living. Commit to seeing the world the way that Jesus would have you see it.

Friday Devotion – Jesus Disrupts the World

Read 2 Thessalonians 4:13-5:10; 2 Timothy 4:1-5

One day Jesus will disrupt the whole world. He will come like a thief in the night. Unexpectedly, for many, but not a surprise for those who believe.

This knowledge leads to faith and hope. Faith that we are living for the God in charge of history. Hope that those who have died will be raised to life again.

It is important for us to be reminded of that truth, especially this week.

Paul also encourages his disciple, Timothy, to continue steadfastly in the ministry he is called to. For Timothy his ministry is preaching the word of God, telling others the Good News and pastorally leading them with patience.

The motivation for this work that He was to do was the fact that Jesus would one day come and judge the living and the dead. His future surety led to his current faithfulness.

Knowing that Jesus will come one day to judge the living and the dead provides us with the same motivation. We can give our all to God knowing that our efforts have an eternal impact.

Let us give everything to the one who calls us to live according to His purpose

Pray and thank Jesus that His disruption is the purpose of our lives.