

*Max Lucado tells the story from his local paper of Chippie the Parakeet. Apparently the Parakeet never saw it coming.*

*One second he was peacefully perched in his cage.*

*The next he wasn't...*

*You see it all began when Chippie's owner decided to clean his cage with a vacuum cleaner...*

*She removed the attachment from the end of the hose and stuck it in the cage. The phone rang (as inevitably it does in situations like this),*

*she turned to pick it up and as she did so, there was a "sshlopp" and Chippie disappeared.*

*The Bird owner gasped, dropped the phone, turned off the vacuum and opened the bag. There was Chippie – still alive but stunned.*

*Since the bird was covered in dust and fluff, she grabbed him and raced to the bathroom, turned on the taps and held the parakeet under the running water. And then realizing that Chippie was now soaked and shivering, she reached for the hair-dryer and blasted him with hot air.*

*The newspaper reporter said "Poor Chippie never knew what hit him".*

*Apparently, So many people wrote in wanting to know what happened next that the newspaper followed the story up with a phone call to the owner. "Well" the owner replied "Chippie doesn't sing anymore - he just sort of sits and stares.*

*Sucked in, washed out, blown over – its enough to steal the song from anyone's heart.*

**Can we relate to this?**

*Last week I heard that a member of our church was shopping with two of her small children when they started playing up, you know crying, screaming, (I imagine taking things off the shelf, perhaps even re-distributing it around the shop). She felt completely outnumbered and overwhelmed. She said "a man was just standing there watching it all just happen" – and at this she lost it and went up to him and shouted "will you just stop staring!".*

*At which point a total stranger came up and gave her a hug saying "there, there, we've all been there!" and another stranger lifted one the children and started to sing to him!".*

**Can we relate to this?**

Oh, yes!

One day all is calm – until the phone call, the rejection letter, the policeman at the door or the visit to the doctors,

In fact it doesn't have to be as big as that - All is calm

*until our teenager comes home and asks if our insurance covers the other persons car...*

*until our garage mechanic says that the part we need is only hand-made in Lower Teseckstan*

*until our boss calls us in and says "I need it by tomorrow".*

We all know that life can go from calm to chaos in a matter of moments. No warnings, No announcements, No preparation.

Suddenly, we're pelted in a hailstorm of demands and we lose our joy.

Somewhere in the storm, we lose our song.

All last week and all this week I've been thinking about how we keep our joy in the conflicts of life.

Last Sunday night we looked at what David did – and all this week I have been thinking about what it means to live for the glory of God come what may.

What does that mean, what does it look like, how do you do it?

we talked about seeking God, speaking to God, living for God.

So tonight rather than move onto a different topic, I want to stay with this theme and look at how Jesus did it.

I want us to take “a day in the life of Jesus and see how he coped”.

So would you turn to Matthew 14, p981, but also keep a finger in the parallel story in Mark 6.

I want to ask:

Does Jesus know what it is like to be us: to be sad, to be endlessly interrupted, to be swamped by demands?

Does God know what its like to be you?

and if so

how does he manage to endure the day without losing his song?

What code does he use?

How does he live for the glory of God?

In the stress, disappointment and demands of this world!

Two ideas. Does God know? How does he React.?

### **1. Firstly, Does God Know?**

Not many of us will have spotted this - because we tend to read the Bible in bite sized chunks – but the ‘day of the feeding of the 5,000’ is simply a roaring sequence of bad news, demanding crowds and doubting friends.

It is 24 hours in which Jesus is hit again and again with stress.

They say storms can come without warning.

That they can pounce when we are least expecting them.

Well this certainly happened for Jesus - his day began with

#### **1.1. an Overwhelming Sorrow.**

Matthew 14v12 “John’s disciples came and took John’s body and buried it. Then they went and told Jesus”.

The morning began when a runner came to Jesus saying: “John is dead”. John your cousin. John your co-worker. John your friend has been murdered by the vanity of a Corrupt King because some girl danced and aroused his lust.

Your friend killed by a weak King because some girl waved her hips in front of him and he wanted to impress her with his power.

Imagine how that must have felt for Jesus,

the aching injustice of it,

the mind numbing waste of a good person,

the overwhelming sorrow for his friend.

*So how do you live for the glory of God in this?*

When your dearest friend has just been murdered?

When your world has been turned upside down?

*How do you live for the glory of God in this?*

Jesus went to be alone.

He does exactly what we saw last we week that we must do:

Life is tough? – seek God!

So in v13 you see “he tries to withdraw by boat to a solitary place”.

He wants to grieve, to talk to his Father, to get his head straight...

he doesn’t get very far...

Because now I want you to turn to Mark chapter 6 p1009.

Because before he got away what happens in Mark 6v30?

Do you see it?: “The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all that **they** had done and taught”.

Here is Jesus needing a moment to escape, to grieve and suddenly he has to face

## **1.2. These Untimely Interruptions!**

You see back in Mark 6 v7

Jesus had sent his disciples out 2 by 2 on their very first evangelistic campaign.

They had gone out to preach the gospel and to authenticate it with miracles. And what happened ?

Well Look at v12 “They preached and drove out many demons and anointed the sick and healed them”.  
And now they’ve returned and I can only imagine that they are full of excitement about what has happened.

These were ordinary people like you and me - and so you can you imagine the excitement on their return!  
You can imagine the re-union as the 6 pairs swap stories:

Peter describes the lame man he healed

John tells of a crowd that he taught

Andrew of an epileptic who was calmed by his touch;

And as the stories tumbled out –

I imagine the news that Jesus had of John, gets pushed to the back further and further.

Jesus’ needs are pushed to the back for the sake of other people’s. *Anyone know what I am talking about??*

But the interruptions don’t stop there.

Look at v31: *“Then because so many people were coming and going they didn’t even have a chance to eat”*.

It was like a cattle market.

Jesus didn’t get a chance to tell them about John,

he didn’t get a chance to rejoice with them over what they had learned, he didn’t even get a chance to stop and eat.

Everyone tugging at his sleeves interrupting him.

Has that ever happened to you?

***How do you live for the glory of God when this is happening to you?***

When your needs are kicked to touch?

When you are coping with sorrow and

now there are endless interruptions,

but the day get worse because ‘on top of it all’ there are:

## **1.3. Continual Demands.**

Because look at v31 Jesus shouts over the crowd to the disciples: “Come with me to a quiet place and get some rest”

He shouts a command over the crowd and the 13 of them struggle their way through to the beach and climb into a boat.

They push it out into the water and scramble aboard.

And then for a few precious moments, the world is quite again.

The din of the crowd recedes and the boat makes its way across the Sea of Galilee.

But look at v33, do you see it?

“many who saw them leaving recognised them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them”.

They got there ahead of them!

When Jesus landed, there was not the space that he was seeking - there was a large crowd – a reception party waiting for him.

Surprise!

Don't you just want to say "OH GIVE HIM A BREAK, LEAVE HIM ALONE"?

They are like Piranhas everyone taking a bite, everyone demanding their slice of him, everyone wanting just a bit of his time...

Do you know what that's like?

*How do you live for the glory of God in this?*

Surely every Mother knows about what Amanda calls the Piranha hour when everyone wants a bit and she is on the menu!

I know what its like to have a wedding just about to start,  
a funeral telephone conversation going on and  
my children hovering by my seat, demanding that I settle some squabble.

Every mother knows what its like to be pulled by a hungry child,  
aware of an accident about to happen, and the need to tidy up before whoever comes around.

Every teacher and nurse knows what I am talking about.

Every boss has a time where the requests outnumber the results.

Everyone of us knows what this is like and so does Jesus.

Look at v37 – Jesus knows what its like to be faced late in the day with 5,000 hungry mouths to feed,  
to turn to his disciples and say "you feed them" and  
for them to fail the test!

He knows what its like to trudge up a mountain to find some space only for a storm to break over him v46  
Wouldn't you be tempted to say "thank you God!"

He knows what its like, v48, in the middle of the night to be interrupted because the people he loves are trouble.

And then to have to get up and go to them.

He knows.

He knows what it is like (after an exhausting, grief filled day) to have a sleepless night and then to start the next day cold and wet and to see v54 a crowd of people waiting for him **and for it to start all over again**.  
He knows what its like to give and to give and to give again.

## *2. How do you live for the glory of God in this?*

Well he didn't say to the disciples "I can't cope with you talking to me just now because I have my own troubles"

He didn't shout at the crowds "Will you never leave me alone"

He didn't scold the disciples for wanting to send the people away or moan about them getting themselves in trouble in the middle of the night.

What we see and what we learn - is that Jesus looked at the people in need, and where-ever they were at, and no matter how big or small their needs he lived for the glory of God by valuing them!

## **2.1 He lived for the Glory of God by valuing the people he was with.**

*Theresa Briones is a petite, loving, unassuming mother who, to her amazement, packs an incredible left hook!*

*She discovered this ability one day in an Amusement Park when some kids were mocking her daughter, Alicia.*

*You see Alicia is bald. Her knees are arthritic. Her nose is pinched and her hearing is bad.*

*She has the stamina of a seventy-year-old. And she is only ten.*

*"Mum," one the kids shouts, "come and look at the monster!"*

*Alicia is shorter than most preschoolers because she suffers from Progeria—a genetic disease that strikes one child in eight million.*

*Her life expectancy is 20 years.*

*"She is not a monster," Theresa defends "She is just like you and me."*

*The mother of the finger-pointing child came to investigate. "I see 'it,'" she told the kids.*

*"My child is not an 'it,'" Theresa stated. and Then she decked the woman.*

Who could blame her?

Mothers and Fathers have a God-given ability to love their children regardless of imperfections.

Not because the parents are blind.

In fact just the opposite we see vividly.

We see vividly through the imperfections to the value of the person.

Parents see the value of their child.

So does God.

God sees you and me with the eyes of a Father.

He sees our defects, our errors, our blemishes.

But he also sees our value.

Jesus constantly opened himself to others because he knew their value

He constantly opens himself up to you because he knows yours...

→ No matter who we are, no matter what needs we have, Jesus has sees our value because he sees that you are his child.

Therefore whenever we are in stress, whenever the piranha's are about to bite, whenever the door knocks for the umpteenth time –

to live for the glory of God is to see the true value of the person in front of us.

To see them as God sees them.

That is how you live for the glory of God in the storm – and it is easier said than done! For old habits – I find die too hard.

We live for the glory of God by seeing the person not our problem.

That's what Jesus did!

The second thing he did (the first in priority) but actually, usually the second in practice

## **2.2. He saw the value of seeking his Heavenly Father.**

After Jesus had heard the news about John – he tried to withdraw

After his Ministry with so many people – he beckoned the disciples away

After he had fed the 5,000 – he went up the mountain to pray.

At every point of stress in Jesus' life his reaction was the same –

he took everything to God at the earliest opportunity.

He knew the value of going to his Father and pouring out his heart – because as he did so he **felt** understood  
He knew the value of sharing his life with God and drawing from the strength of not being alone.  
He knew, the value of knowing you are valued and seeking God's approval

Whenever the storms of life crash over our boat –  
we need to fly to the Father.  
Because he knows how we feel.  
Because we will know we are understood, we are not alone, we are valued.

*There was a Father who was teaching his six-year-old son how to play basketball.. The boy would take the basketball and push it as hard as he could at the basket high over head, but it would always fall short. The Father would take the ball and toss it towards the basket and say something like “Just do it like this son, its easy”.*

*Then the boy would try again and miss again.*

*The Father would take the ball and score another basket encouraging the boy to push harder.*

*After several minutes and many misses, the boy turns to his Father and says “Yeah, but its easy for you up there Dad.*

*You don't know how hard it is from down here”.*

Seek out your Father at the end of every major encounter (good or bad) seek him, remind yourself of his promises, day, seek to live for his glory!  
For Jesus knows what its like from down here.

*A politician dons a hardhat and enters the factory he thinks he is like one of the employees.  
A social worker goes to the inner city and spends the night on the streets like one of the homeless.  
A General surveys the front line and chats to the troops like one of them.*

*All three want to communicate the same message:*

*"I identify with you. I can understand you. I can connect with you."*

*There is one problem,*

*The factory employee know that the politician's hardhat will come off when the television crew is gone.*

*The homeless know that the social worker will be in a warm bed by the next night.*

*And the soldiers know the general will retire safe behind his desk*

Try as they might, their participation can only ever be partial.  
Jesus' participation is complete.

Every page of the Gospels hammers home this crucial principle:

God knows how you feel.

From the funeral to the factory to the frustration

from dawn to dusk

from endless interruptions and immense demands.

God knows.

When you tell God that you've reached your limit,  
he knows what you mean.

When you shake your head at impossible deadlines, he understands.

When your plans are interrupted by people who have other plans, he has been there.

Right down to the mockery, the isolation, the pain of broken heart

He knows.

So go to him.  
he knows what its like to be you.  
you are always precious to him  
he will never turn you away  
see the value of people  
see the value of flying to God  
and we have the secret of living for His glory