

Interruptions can be ...

pleasant

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- pleasant
- petty

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- pleasant
- petty
- painful



Henry Morton Stanley

• born in Wales in 1841

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- mother abandoned him

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- father never cared for him
- grandfather cared for him until he was 6
- taken to St. Asaph's Workhouse
- learned to read and "escape" through books

• became a cabin boy at 17

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- jumped ship in New Orleans

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- joined the Confederate Army
- joined the Union Army
- joined the Federal Navy
- became a freelance journalist
- was commissioned to find David Livingstone

"I know not what I lack to make me happy.

If I could find an island in mid-ocean,
remote from the presence or reach of man,
with a few necessaries sufficient to sustain
life, I might be happy yet;

"for then I could forget what reminds me of unhappiness and, when death came, I should accept it as a long sleep and rest."

Henry Morton Stanley

"The truth is of course, that what one calls the interruptions are precisely one's real life – the life God is sending one day by day: what one calls one's 'real life' is a phantom of one's own imagination."

C.S. Lewis

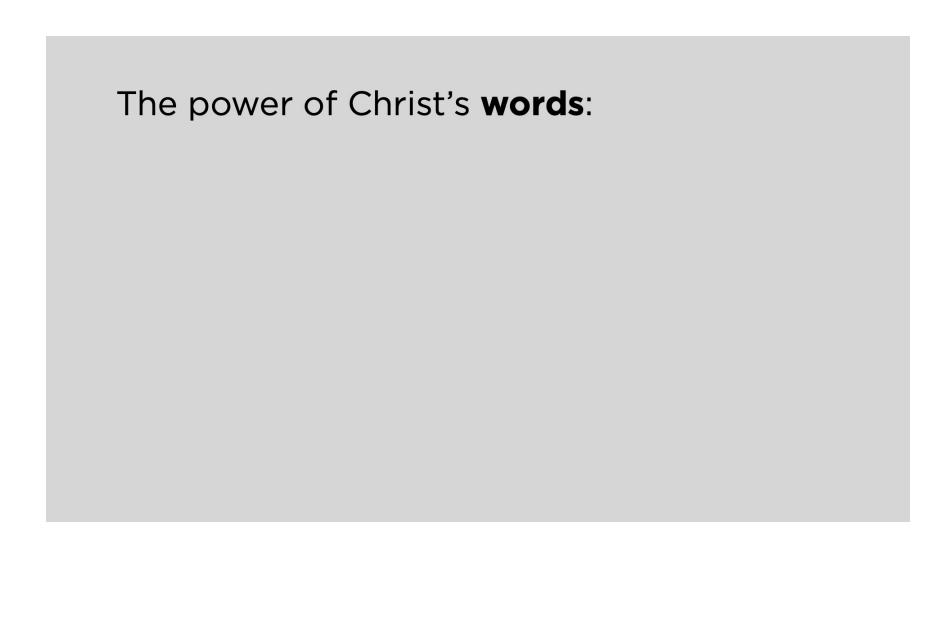
# 3 SETS OF MIRACLES-3 CALLS

LEPER SERVANT MOTHER - IN - LAW C A L L DEMONS
PARALYTIC

WOMAN/GIRL
C A L L 2 BLIND MEN
MUTE MAN

CALL

Interruption #1 -Jesus is interrupted **by a ruler**.



The power of Christ's words:

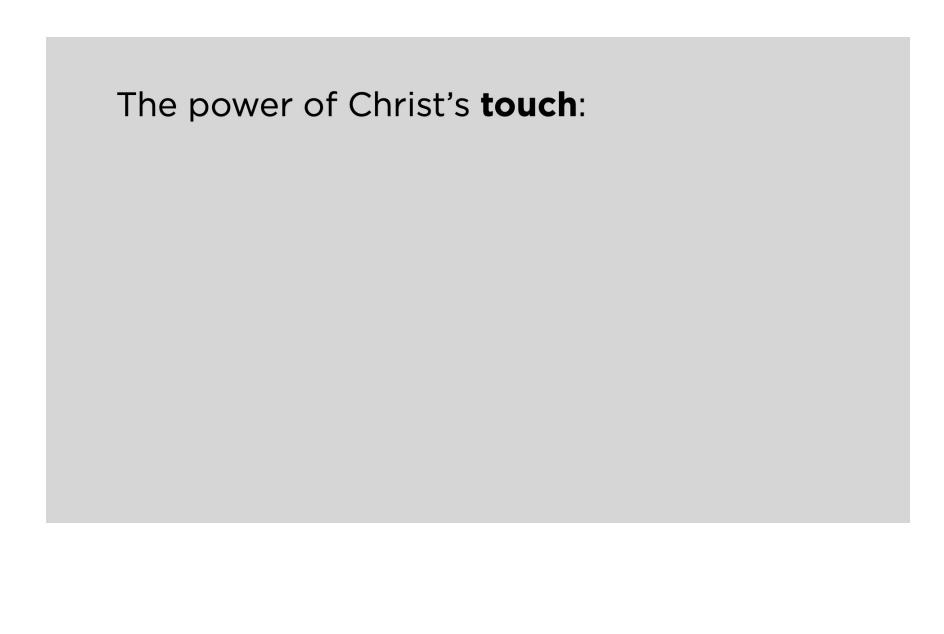
He rebuked the winds and the waves.

## The power of Christ's words:

- He rebuked the winds and the waves.
- He cast out demons with a word "Go."

#### The power of Christ's words:

- He rebuked the winds and the waves.
- He cast out demons with a word "Go."
- He forgave sin and healed paralysis with a word.



The power of Christ's **touch**:

• The woman touches him and is healed.

## The power of Christ's **touch**:

- The woman touches him and is healed.
- He took the girl by the hand, and she arose.

### The power of Christ's **touch**:

- The woman touches him and is healed.
- He took the girl by the hand, and she arose.
- He touched the eyes of the blind, and they opened.

Interruption #1 -Jesus is interrupted **by a ruler**.

"While he was saying these things to them, behold, a ruler came in and knelt before him, saying,

Interruption #1 Jesus is interrupted **by a ruler**.

"My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.' And Jesus rose and followed him, with his disciples." (18-19)

Interruption #2 -Jesus is interrupted **by a woman**. Interruption #2 Jesus is interrupted **by a woman**.

"And behold, a woman who had suffered from a discharge of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment," (20) This woman is suffering ...

physically

## physically

She "suffered from a discharge of blood for twelve years." (20a)

- physically
- financially

- physically
- financially

"Though she had spent all her living on physicians, she could not be healed by anyone." Luke 8:43b

- physically
- <u>financially</u>
- socially

"... came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment" (20b)

- physically
- <u>financially</u>

## socially

"for she said to herself, 'If I only touch his garment, I will be made well." (21) "Jesus turned, and seeing her ...

"Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, 'Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.'

"And instantly the woman was made well."

Matthew 9:22

"Mark the impression of calm consciousness of power and leisurely dignity produced by Christ's having time to pause.... "The father and the disciples would wonder at Him as He stayed His steps, and apt to feel that priceless moments were being lost."

Alexander MacLaren

Interruption #3 - Jesus interrupts <u>a funeral</u>.

Interruption #3 - Jesus interrupts a funeral.

"And when Jesus came to the ruler's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, he said, 'Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping.' And they laughed at him." (23-24)

"The husband is bound to bury his dead wife, and to make lamentations and mourning for her....

"And also the very poorest amongst the Israelites will not allow her less than two flutes and one wailing woman; but, if he be rich, let all things be done according to his qualities."

**Talmud** 

"But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose."

Matthew 9:25

1. Jesus is **happy** to be **interrupted**.

Jesus lives to be interrupted!

Jesus lives to be interrupted!

"Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them."

Hebrews 7:25

- Jesus lives to be interrupted!
- Jesus's miracles are not the interruptions.

"When Jesus expels demons and heals the sick, he is driving out of creation the powers of destruction, and is healing and restoring beings who are hurt and sick.

"The lordship of God to which the healings witness, restores creation to health. Jesus' healings are not supernatural miracles in a natural world.

"They are the only truly 'natural' thing in a world that is unnatural, demonized and wounded."

Jurgen Moltmann

- 1. Jesus is <u>happy</u> to be <u>interrupted</u>.
- 2. Jesus is **with us** in the **interruptions of life**.



Joni Eareckson Tada

"I serenely acknowledge the pain and allow it to press me in on all sides, and then I take one more step of faith: I ask my Savior to not let it crush me, but to meet me in it. He always does.... "Even I look in the mirror and wonder, how is it I keep smiling after so many years of quadriplegia? "You could experience a baker's dozen of serious issues layered one on top of another. Financial pressures. Health pressures. Relationship pressures. Spiritual warfare pressures. The pressure of unthinkable grief or cruel pain.

"It will not crush you if you believe Christ is in it. All that matters is knowing that Jesus is walking in the fiery furnace with you."

Joni Eareckson Tada

"I see in this world two heaps, of human happiness and misery: now, if I can take but the smallest bit from one heap and add to the other, I carry a point. "If, as I go home, a child has dropped a halfpenny, and if, by giving it another, I can wipe away its tears, I feel I have done something. "I should be glad, indeed, to do greater things; but I will not neglect this – When I hear a knock at my study door, I hear a message from God. "It may be a lesson of instruction; perhaps a lesson of patience: but, since it is his message, it must be interesting."

John Newton