



## Message Discussion Guide Week of May 5, 2024

**Message:** Walking the Talk, Part 5: Holy Interruptions

**Key Scriptures:** [Mark 5:21-43](#)

**Preacher:** Tom Parkinson

### **Message Highlights:**

Walking the talk means living out our faith with integrity. A great test of our integrity is how we handle disruptions. Life cannot be predicted, and how we respond to unplanned moments reveals our true character and faith.

There are two categories of disruptions we face in the journey of faith:

1. Unholy distractions – unplanned moments that divert our time, energy, resources, and attentions away from God’s will.
2. Holy interruptions – unplanned moments that draw us closer to God, giving us a heavenly perspective on what matters most.

To live with integrity, we must learn to avoid unholy distractions and embrace holy interruptions.

In Jesus’ ministry he regularly had to resist unholy interruptions – whether the temptations of Satan, the demands of the crowds, or the misunderstandings of his disciples – there were many disruptions that sought to distract Jesus from his primary mission.

While Jesus sought to avoid unholy distractions, he also embraced holy interruptions. Many powerful moments in Jesus’ ministry happen while he is “on the way.” They are unplanned moments when Jesus is able to reveal God’s heart and the kingdom. These two miracle stories in Mark 5 are holy interruptions.

The key to handling life’s disruptions is Jesus’ teaching in Mark 5:38 – “Don’t be afraid; only believe.” Fear leads to distraction. Faith leads to deeper commitment and focus on God’s power and will.

**Discussion Questions:**

- 1.) What are some “unholy distractions” you have experienced – times when an unplanned moment has caused you to lose focus on what matters? When did you realize the moment was a distraction?
- 2.) What are some “holy interruptions” you have experienced – times when an unplanned moment was used by God to draw you closer to him? How can you know the difference between an “unholy distraction” and a “holy interruption?”
- 3.) [Read Mark 5:21-43](#)
  - a. Who is Jairus? Why would some have seen his request as an “unholy distraction?”
  - b. Who is this unnamed woman? Why is her touching of Jesus’ robe a potential distraction to Jesus’ ministry?
  - c. What character-traits of Jesus are on display in these verses? How does he “walk the talk” in the way he responds to these disruptions?
- 4.) Pastor Tom said that fear leads to distractions and faith leads to deeper commitment and faith in God. How does fear distract us? How can our faith free us from fear?
- 5.) In what ways are you distracted in your faith journey right now? What is causing the distraction? How can you reset and re-center your faith?
- 6.) What is your primary takeaway from this message?