



- 1. to cause or make a break in the continuity or uniformity.
- 2. to break off or cause to cease, as in the middle of something.
- 3. to stop (a person) in the midst of doing or saying something, especially by an interjected remark.

Interruption is often God's INVITATION.

1 Peter 3:13-16 (NIV)

13 Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? 14 But even if you should suffer for what is right. you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats: do not be frightened." 15 But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, 16 keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

Readiness to live an interruptible life is established in PRAYER.

Mark 1:35-40 (NIV)

³⁵ Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. ³⁶ Simon and his companions went to look for him, ³⁷ and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!"

³⁸ Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." ³⁹ So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

⁴⁰ A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean."

Followers of Jesus turn interruptions into **OPPORTUNITIES**.

SO WHAT?

:: The ability to live an interruptible life is found in what we <u>VALUE</u>.

:: Look for divine opportunities whenever interruptions involve PEOPLE.

Ephesians 2:10
For we are God's
handiwork, created in
Christ Jesus to do good
works, which God
prepared in advance for
us to do.

NOTES:

"I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer." Martin Luther







Now What? [For Further Reflection]:

- :: Describe a time you experienced an interruption. Who/What was involved?
 - :: How did you respond? What happened as a result?
 - :: What did you learn from that experience?
- :: Re-read 1 Peter 3:13-17.
 - :: Discuss what "being prepared" might look like in our daily lives.
 - :: Where have you seen or encountered opportunities to live like this?
- :: Discuss how purpose and prayer provide perspective in life. [ref. diagram]
 - :: How has knowing your purpose, or not, impacted prayer in your life?
 - :: How has praying, or not, impacted living into your purpose in life?
 - :: What is one way you could improve your prayer life this week?
- :: Read Mark 1:21-45.
 - :: What stands out to you as you read this passage?
 - :: What role did interruptions play in these moments?
 - :: How did Jesus respond to each? What was similar? Different?
 - :: What are some practical implications for us today?
- :: Pastor Shawn said, "Followers of Jesus turn interruptions into opportunities."
 - :: Discuss the implications of this statement.
 - :: Share where you have struggled/succeeded in living this way.
 - :: What do you find especially challenging or encouraging about this?
 - :: What are some practical implications of living out this reality?
- :: Invite a friend to pray for you as you seek to live an interruptible life this week.

How to start a relationship with God:

- 1) Admitting that you, like everyone else, are in need of rescue.
- 2) Asking God to forgive your sins.
- 3) Saying YES to God by trusting Jesus as Savior & Lord.

You can do that right now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. Today, I recognize you as Savior; and I choose to respond to you as my Risen LORD.

Help me to walk with you by faith in every area of my life.

In Your name, Amen.

Unless otherwise noted, today's Scripture is from the New International Version [NIV]. Shawn Cossin (@shawncossin) – May 5 & 6, 2018