

QUESTION TIME!

Tell the person next to you a Knock Knock Joke.









Special thanks to those who donated to the refugee collection last week. Apparently over 5,000 items in total were donated! The container will be shipped off 4th December and arrive in Lesvos new years eve.



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**FIRE RISK
& AN URGENCY TO
FIND A NEW
PREMISE TO RENT**



FOCUS

21 Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,”^[a] for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’^[b] or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

5 He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for



OFFERING

Almighty God,

Upon the cross, sorrow and pain and every dreadful, tragic consequence of sin was overcome.

Today we remember all those who have joined in that sacrifice for peace and justice.

We give thanks for the bravery of men and women who have served for harmony and love.

And in a world that is still torn and broken we declare that Jesus is Lord.

That hope overcomes despair,

That joy overcomes sorrow,

That peace overcomes hostility,

That love overcomes hate.

From the tomb, the promise of eternity emerged in a resurrected Christ.

Grace was poured into the hearts of all those who suffer, mourn and

It's so complicated
being a Christian in
this day and age.

There's just not
enough time.

schedules,
agendas, &
the things that get in our way.

interruptions,
irritations &
unforeseen circumstances

things we hope to get done
things that actually get done

Jesus

“If you had slept in the same house or field with Jesus, awakened with him, eaten with him and helped him, what would you have observed? One thing we always think of is that Jesus gave himself almost entirely to what we would consider interruptions. Most of the teaching, healing and wonders we see in his life were responsive...seemingly unplanned. He trusted that what the Father allowed to cross his path was exactly that...from the Father. Jesus always seemed willing for things to get messy”

-Marcia Lebhar

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Jesus

How did he deal with interruptions, & unforeseen circumstances?

¹⁰ He sent and had John beheaded in the prison, ¹¹ and his head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, and she brought it to her mother. ¹² And his disciples came and took the body and buried it, and they went and told Jesus.

¹³ Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns.

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1. Focus

*Finding your feet,
knowing your ground*

Matthew 14:14 When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. ¹⁵ Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” ¹⁶ But Jesus said, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” ¹⁷ They said to him, “We have only five loaves here and two fish.”

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¹⁸ And he said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. ²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children

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2. Compassion *Annoyance or Opportunity?*

Matthew 8:23-27

And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. ²⁴ And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. ²⁵ And they went and woke him, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing." ²⁶ And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. ²⁷ And the men marvelled, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?"

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3. Discern what's important
*Reframing importance helps
clarify whether it's urgent*

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Mark 10:46

⁴⁶ And they came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside. ⁴⁷ And when he heard

that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

⁴⁸ And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

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But he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

⁴⁹ And Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart. Get up; he is calling you." ⁵⁰ And throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus.

⁵¹ And Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" And the blind man said to him, "Rabbi, let me recover my sight." ⁵² And Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way.

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4. Persistent People

Persistent requests may be highlighting something

Ephesians 5:15-17

¹⁵ Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,

¹⁹ addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, ²⁰ giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

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5. Spirit Opportunity

Filled with the Spirit, hearts at the ready, God's agenda.

The great thing, if one can, is to stop regarding all the unpleasant things as interruptions of one's 'own', or 'real' life. The truth is of course that what one calls the interruptions are precisely one's real life—the life that 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, 1943 Letter, "*Yours, Jack*"

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Following God's agenda
brings opportunities
to bless, to be blessed,
to shape, to be shaped
