



Life Interrupted – Week 3
Truth Reminds You of What is Still True – Jim Burgen
April 10, 2022

Group Creed

We come together as a group with the goal of Spiritual Formation--encouraging one another to become the same kind of person that Jesus is so that we can live out every part of our lives inside of His Kingdom.

// Bible References

Ephesians 2:8-9; 2 Corinthians 12:8-10; John 14:6

// Message Summary

The 'Life Interrupted' series has been helping us take a look at what is going on in this learning laboratory we call life. God uses various teaching methods to get our attention and redirect us toward a better way. A quick recap of the last two weeks: truth can kick the door down and catch you in the act, or truth can ask a tough question that moves you to action. If you missed something, check out flatironschurch.com/messages for a review.

When people encountered Jesus, He interrupted and changed their lives with truth and grace. This week, Pastor Jim teaches us a truth that saves us from death and can also help us choose a better way of life. Grace that comes from Jesus can meet us in a moment of truth to remind us of what we need to live more abundantly.

// Biblical and Historical Context

The Apostle Paul started the church at Ephesus, probably during his second missionary journey, sometime between 49-and 51 AD. But then he waited over ten years before writing his letter to the Ephesian church. Why the delay? He did not send the letter to confront or correct them about any problems of sin or mistakes in their teaching. Instead, the first verses explain he was grateful to remember them (Ephesians 1:15). Paul used this phrase many times, constantly *remembering and reminding* the churches of grace and their faith in the gospel he had preached to them.

Peter was the first of the disciples to recognize Jesus as the Messiah sent from God (Matthew 16:13-18). Peter's identity and his actions were transformed by the truth Jesus spoke to him that day. The first words Jesus said to Peter were "Come, follow me." The last thing Jesus said to Peter was, "You must follow me." Perhaps Peter learned it was better to be a follower with failings than someone who failed to follow. More of Peter's story can be found in the gospels and the book of Acts. He wrote the books of 1 and 2 Peter.

// Community Question

1. Use a timer or a stopwatch; if your group is large, divide into teams for a friendly two-minute competition. In two minutes, write as many words as you can that start with the prefix 're' (react, repeat, regress, relieve, regard, relax, rehearse, remorse, recycle, reprove, redeem), etc. At the end, the person or team with the most/ most unique re-word wins.

// Discussion Questions

As you facilitate discussion, it may be good to remind group members to maintain confidentiality and refrain from giving advice. When sharing life lessons, we may have much in common. But we must look and point others toward God and the truth of His words rather than our own.

1. Read 2 Corinthians 12:8-10. What do you think was happening in Paul's life?
2. Can you relate? Think about a weakness, difficulty, or hardship you've experienced.
 - a. If you feel comfortable, share the story. What did you learn?
 - b. How did God show up in your situation or circumstances?
 - c. What good or positive thing has come out of it?
3. Look again at 2 Corinthians 12:9-10. Paul sets up an interesting paradox about our strengths and weaknesses.
 - a. What happens when we are strong in our own abilities or resources?
 - b. What does this passage say happens when we bring our weaknesses to Christ?

// Challenge

Jim said that sometimes the way God delivers truth is by reminding us:

God's love is greater than our hatred.

God's forgiveness is greater than our anger.

God's acceptance is greater than our shame.

God's faithfulness is greater than our failures.

God's grace is greater than our disgrace.

Spend some time this week leading up to Easter meditating on ways God has demonstrated His love, forgiveness, acceptance, faithfulness, and grace toward you. Thank Him for redeeming those parts of your life. Pray about the people in your life who need grace too, and invite them to Flatirons flatironschurch.com/easter2022.