

When God Says...

Part 1: Stop

Aug 11 & 12, 2018

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What's your reaction when you hear the word stop?

Common Uses of the Word Stop

1) A legal traffic command

Common Responses

Comply

Disregard

Challenge

2) A parental demand

3) An oversimplified solution

4) A loving plea

A Moment When Jesus Stopped MARK 5:24-34

²⁴ A large crowd followed and pressed around him. ²⁵ And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. ²⁶ She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. ²⁷ When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸ because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed." ²⁹ Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

³⁰ At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?"

³¹ "You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?'"

³² But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. ³³ Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. ³⁴ He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."

Jesus stopped...

The destructive power of disease

Years of pain and torment

In the crush of a crowd to notice an opportunity

His disciples in their rush to move ahead

An improper response to an irrelevant law

An old identity with a new identity

What is God lovingly asking you to stop?

How will you respond to his loving plea?

Comply? Disregard? Challenge?

Next Steps

Fall is just around the corner with all the busyness it brings. Take some time over the next few weeks to consider the two questions above.

- Is God making a loving plea for you to stop some activity, let go of a responsibility that's not truly yours, get help for a destructive pattern in your life, or surrender your agenda for his?
- How will you respond? What help are you willing to seek or receive in order to comply with God's loving plea?

Small Group Questions

- 1) What's the highlight of your summer so far? Why?
- 2) What is your honest response to stop signs? Comply? Disregard? Challenge?
- 3) What is Jesus lovingly asking you to stop? What has held you back from being obedient?
- 4) Jesus would love to rename you Son or Daughter today. What faith step do you need to take to receive his new identity for you?
- 5) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?