

East Hill Church Sermon Discussion Guide:

RE Jesus: Responding to Life's Interruptions

Speakers: Pastor Aaron Dressler and Angela Davis

Date: November 10, 2024

Introduction:

In this powerful shared message, Pastor Aaron Dressler and Angela Davis continued the "RE Jesus" series by examining the story of the adulterous woman in John 8. Through this account, they explored Jesus' response to interruptions, His heart for the marginalized, and His invitation to self-reflection rather than judgment.

1. Jesus' Response to Interruptions:

The speakers highlighted how Jesus handled unexpected challenges with wisdom and grace.

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you typically respond to unexpected interruptions in your life?
2. What can we learn from Jesus' calm and measured response in challenging situations?

Supporting Verse:

John 8:6-7 - "They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger. They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, 'All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!'"

Context and Reflection:

- Historical/Cultural Context: Jesus faced a deliberate attempt to trap Him in a conflict between mercy and the law.

- Theological Significance: His response demonstrated divine wisdom in handling conflict and interruption.
- Application: We should seek God's wisdom rather than reacting impulsively to life's challenges.

2. Moving from Judgment to Self-Reflection:

The speakers emphasized Jesus' ability to redirect focus from others' sins to personal self-examination.

Discussion Questions:

1. How can we cultivate a spirit of self-reflection rather than judgment?
2. What prevents us from examining our own hearts before criticizing others?

Supporting Verses:

Matthew 7:3-5 - "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?... First take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

Context and Reflection:

- Historical/Cultural Context: Jesus was teaching about the danger of hypocritical judgment.
- Theological Significance: These verses emphasize the importance of personal accountability before God.
- Application: We should prioritize examining our own hearts rather than judging others.

3. Extending Grace to the Marginalized:

The speakers discussed Jesus' pattern of showing compassion to society's outcasts.

Discussion Questions:

1. How can we follow Jesus' example of reaching out to those on the margins?
2. What barriers prevent us from showing Christ-like compassion to others?

Supporting Verse:

John 8:10-11 - "Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, 'Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?' 'No, Lord,' she said. And Jesus said, 'Neither do I. Go and sin no more.'"

Context and Reflection:

- Historical/Cultural Context: Women in Jesus' time had little social standing and few legal rights.
- Theological Significance: Jesus demonstrated God's heart for restoration rather than condemnation.
- Application: We should seek to extend grace while still encouraging transformation.

Conclusion:

Pastor Aaron Dressler and Angela Davis' message reminded us that Jesus' response to interruptions, His invitation to self-reflection, and His compassion for the marginalized provide a model for our own lives. Through their personal stories and biblical insight, they challenged us to see interruptions as opportunities for God to work and to respond with grace rather than judgment.

Reflection Questions:

1. What "interruptions" in your life might actually be divine appointments?
2. How can you cultivate Jesus' approach to handling challenging situations?
3. In what ways can you show Christ-like compassion to those society often marginalizes?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you for Jesus' example of responding to life's challenges with wisdom and grace. Help us to see interruptions as opportunities for your work in our lives. Give us hearts of compassion for those on the margins and the humility to examine ourselves before judging others. Transform us to be more like Jesus in how we respond to others. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

References:

Primary Sources:

"RE Jesus: Responding to Life's Interruptions," East Hill Church, 11/10/2024. Delivered by Aaron Dressler and Angela Davis.

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Collaborative Contributions:

LLM Contributions: Based on a mixture of licensed data, data created by AI models, and publicly available data, synthesized for the study of the provided sermon summary and biblical passages.

LLM Training Data:

LLM Training Data. Includes a diverse range of texts (books, websites, and other publications) up to April 2024.