

# Life Comes At You Fast

Matthew 14:1-23

David J. Root- Crosstrainers- November 12, 2006

- I. Intro
  - a. Who likes to watch commercials? I admit, normally I don't enjoy watching commercials. I actually have TiVo now, so I don't have to watch commercials ever. It's really nice. I'm an avid Law & Order fan and TiVo tapes like 9 of them a day. There should be a few of them waiting for me when I get home. Anyway, there is one brand of commercials that I actually enjoy watching. Take a look at a few of them:
  - b. PLAY COMMERCIALS DVD
  - c. Aren't those awesome? There's another one that shows a multiple series of random events that ends with a boat crashing into someone's house. Unfortunately I couldn't find that one. There is a great picture to illustrate this point too...
  - d. But the message those commercials send is true. That's one of the reasons people like them so much. "Life comes at you fast". All of a sudden things can be different. One minute you're waiting at a traffic light and the next someone rear ends you. You're playing basketball, you go up for a rebound and you come down on someone's foot and blow out your ankle. Your boyfriend/girlfriend starts dating your best friend. Someone you love suddenly passes away. All of us know that life comes at you fast. We've all had to recover from times where life has suddenly changed right before our eyes.
  - e. Jesus knew it too. His cousin was John the Baptist and in addition to being cousins, they were also friends. They shared a common goal: spread the news about the Kingdom of God. Their relationship suddenly changed one day when John was thrown into prison. Let's pray and take a look at how life changed for Jesus and how he responded.
  
- II. Tell the story of John the Baptist (Matthew 14:1-12)
  - a. He was arrested because he was sleeping with his sister-in-law (Brother's wife)
  - b. Herod didn't kill him because he feared the people's reaction
  - c. His sister-in-law's daughter danced for him
  - d. He gave his word that anything she asked would be given to her
    - i. Up to ½ his kingdom
  - e. His sister-in-law requested his execution
  - f. John was beheaded
    - i. Totally unjust – Herod was trapped by his word
  
- III. Life comes at you fast (v.10-13)
  - a. READ Matthew 14:10-13
  - b. Jesus lost his cousin and good friend
  - c. He was also going through the pain of his hometown rejecting him (13:53-58)

- i. Which likely included many friends and mentors
  - d. News Flash: There will always be something to wrestle with
    - i. Say a lot here.
- IV. How you respond matters (v.13)
  - a. Jesus withdrew to a boat
  - b. Some people prefer to retreat to themselves
    - i. Good: chance to recharge, resist distractions
    - ii. Bad: depression/hopelessness, sin, pornography, removal from support
  - c. Some people prefer to retreat to others
    - i. Good: support, needs met, encouragement, different perspectives
    - ii. Bad: fake community, burying the problem, denial, surface friendships, pity party
  - d. What else did Jesus do to respond?
  - e. READ Matthew 14:13-21
- V. No life circumstance can reduce the power of God
  - a. Notice Jesus' reaction: he tried to withdraw by himself in a boat and people followed him on shore
  - b. Instead of moping or turning them away, he met their needs miraculously
  - c. ADD MOMENT: Jesus feeding the five thousand.
    - i. The only miracle mentioned in all 4 gospels
    - ii. One of the most well known miracles
    - iii. The 5,000 only included the men (v.21 takes special note of that)
    - iv. It would be like feeding every student in Westerville Schools K-12
    - v. 5 loaves + 2 fish – 12,000 mouths = 12 basketfuls left
- VI. Conclusion
  - a. Highlight timeline: hometown rejection, loss of friend & cousin, feeds 5,000
    - i. THEN he finds a way to go into a boat and go away by himself (v.22-23)
  - b. How do you react when life comes at you fast?
  - c. Do you react in unhealthy ways?
  - d. What do you do to dull the pain? Alone? In groups?
  - e. You still need to mourn every loss.
  - f. How you respond matters.

VII. Introduce Cory

VIII. Response

- a. Confess hidden sin or heartache
- b. You're reacting poorly (surface friendships, sulking, not letting God help you)
- c. You need God's help! You've been trying to handle it on your own