

Title: The Interruptions of God

June 4, 2017

Text: John 11:1-6;11-15;17-27

Walk-In: We all encounter them. They come at those times that are most INCONVENIENT, usually UNEXPECTED, and often UNWELCOME. They are **interruptions**. Our plans sometimes are hijacked by someone or something else that crosses our pathway and gives life a detour. I saw it put this way recently : "God is often silent when we prefer that He speak, and He interrupts us when we prefer that He stay silent. His ways are not our ways." I'd like to explore this issue a bit today, probably because the Lord has been helping me to understand them a bit better these days.

First, there are the many FACES of the interruptions of God.

Change in HEALTH. *John 11:1-3*

Change in FAMILY.

In the midst of this, the Church has a ministry of being NEW family.

Change in LOSS. *John 11:14*

Then, there are the varied RESPONSES to the interruptions of God.

A sense of ABANDONMENT.

John 11:21 Martha

John 11:32 Mary

A sense of BETRAYAL.

John 21:18 *When you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go where you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and **take you where you do not wish to go.***

"It means the road of downward mobility in the midst of an upwardly mobile world. I do not say this with sadness, but joyfully. Because the downward road of God is the road on which he reveals Himself to us as God with us." - Henri Nouwen

A sense of DISILLUSIONMENT.

A sense of ANGER or FRUSTRATION.

Finally, there are important WHISPERS in the interruptions of God.

The whisper of His PRESENCE in the midst of all abandonment.

If we are convinced that it is God who has interrupted our lives, then we can keep our sanity.

The whisper of DISCOVERING more about God than we know.

The whisper of RESTING in a God who chooses to be MYSTERIOUS.

Wrap-up: So have you experienced any interruptions of God in your life of late? If not, be patient - they will come! They will come with many faces and you may respond in a variety of ways. The important piece is that you allow Him to whisper to you the truth your heart needs to move ahead in the journey of knowing and loving Him more.