



EMERGENCY

When you need an immediate response
from God and He needs one from you.



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WHAT CONSTITUTES AN EMERGENCY?

Introduction

The Titanic set sail for the first time on April 10, 1912 with more than 2,000 passengers on board. Unfortunately, it would never have the opportunity to do it again. On April 14, the boat hit an iceberg and began to sink. By the time rescuers arrived on April 15, the boat was gone, and few more than 700 passengers were saved.

Today, the Titanic has become a symbol of tragedy. Even though the ship had an emergency communication system and used it, only one reasonably close ship responded with urgency. The responding ship pushed itself to the limit to rescue as many as it could. Another ship was closer but had turned off its emergency communications for the night and didn't get the Titanic's request for help until the next day. At that time there was no protocol for 24/7 access to emergency communication.

Session Scriptures

Matthew 14:22-32, KJV

22 And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away.

23 And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.

24 But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary.

25 And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.

26 And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.

27 But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.

28 And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.

29 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

30 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

32 And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased.

Surveying the Scriptures

Matthew's account of Peter's experience walking on water occurs after Jesus had miraculously fed the 5,000 men plus women and children using two fish and five loaves of bread.

After reading the session scriptures, answer these questions:

1. What did Jesus do after feeding the 5,000 men plus women and children?

2. How did Peter test if the person the disciples saw walking was Jesus?
3. Why did Peter begin to sink?

Digging Deeper

Peter's walk on water was the first miracle of its kind in the New Testament. Although the disciples had access to and knew about miracles such as the Israelites crossing the Red Sea on dry land, they didn't necessarily apply it to their present day.

After studying the scriptures and related texts as necessary, answer these questions.

1. What is the fourth watch of the night and why might it be significant?
2. Would Peter have drowned if he didn't say, "Lord, save me?" Why or why not?
3. Why do you think the wind ceased when Jesus and Peter got into the boat?

Life Application

We often pray and ask for an immediate response based on what we experience physically, mentally, financially, or emotionally. Biblically, God often responds most immediately when we are suffering spiritually. Sometimes our physical suffering and our

spiritual suffering occur at the same time. However, sometimes they are not related, and God's response reflects it.

To apply what we learned in this session to our life, we should:

TRIAGING THE SYMPTOMS

Introduction

The goal of Emergency Room (ER) care looks different depending on whether you are the patient or the attendant. A patient seeks urgent care to get relief and, ideally, a cure. They seek immediate treatment and quick answers.

When an attendant sees a patient enter the ER, they immediately try to triage them. They ask questions to decide if the patient should be prioritized to the front of the line or put in a queue to wait. A primary deciding factor is how likely the patient will die. The higher the likelihood of death, the faster the patient gets seen and treated. The goal of Emergency Room attendants is to stabilize patients, not cure them.

Session Scriptures

Exodus 4:1-17, KJV

4 And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The Lord hath not appeared unto thee.

2 And the Lord said unto him, What is that in thine hand? And he said, A rod.

3 And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it.

4 And the Lord said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand:

5 That they may believe that the Lord God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath appeared unto thee.

6 And the Lord said furthermore unto him, Put now thine hand into thy bosom. And he put his hand into his bosom: and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous as snow.

7 And he said, Put thine hand into thy bosom again. And he put his hand into his bosom again; and plucked it out of his bosom, and, behold, it was turned again as his other flesh.

8 And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe thee, neither hearken to the voice of the first sign, that they will believe the voice of the latter sign.

9 And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe also these two signs, neither hearken unto thy voice, that thou shalt take of the water of the river, and pour it upon the dry land: and the water which thou takest out of the river shall become blood upon the dry land.

10 And Moses said unto the Lord, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue.

11 And the Lord said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the Lord?

12 Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say.

13 And he said, O my Lord, send, I pray thee, by the hand of him whom thou wilt send.

14 And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses, and he said, Is not Aaron the Levite thy brother? I know that he can speak well. And also, behold, he cometh forth to meet thee: and when he seeth thee, he will be glad in his heart.

15 And thou shalt speak unto him, and put words in his mouth: and I will be with thy mouth, and with his mouth, and will teach you what ye shall do.

16 And he shall be thy spokesman unto the people: and he shall be, even he shall be to thee instead of a mouth, and thou shalt be to him instead of God.

17 And thou shalt take this rod in thine hand, wherewith thou shalt do signs.

Surveying the Scriptures

In this passage, Moses is talking to God through a burning bush. God has told Moses He plans to use him to rescue the Israelites from Egypt. Moses responded by questioning God about why God chose him.

After reading the session scriptures, answer these questions:

1. Why was Moses afraid to talk to Pharaoh?
2. How did God respond to Moses' objections?
3. Who recommended Aaron to speak and why?

Digging Deeper

Moses struggled to accept God's call on his life. When talking directly with God, it showed up as fear and he requested God to choose someone else. Though God showed grace and mercy, He was still angry. Later, Moses felt the pain of Aaron's poor choices when Moses went up to speak with God on Mt. Sinai. Aaron may have been an easier solution in the beginning but he also brought some additional challenges.

After studying the scriptures and related texts as necessary, answer these questions.

1. What did God do to convince Moses He would be with him?

2. Given that God is all-knowing why do you think He said "and it shall come to pass, **if** they will not believe" about the signs He would give to Pharaoh to let Egypt go?

3. Why do you think God said He would **teach** Moses what to say instead of saying he would **tell** Moses what to say?

Life Application

During an emergency we start by addressing the most pressing issue, even if it's not the root cause. We start with what's most pressing because it has the most immediate impact. By solving it, we are able to dive deeper into what the real cause is, which make take time to resolve. So, we start with the most immediate need and work our way down to the real problem.

To apply what we learned in this session to our life, we should:

DIAGNOSING THE PROBLEM

Introduction

To uncover the root cause of a person's symptoms, ER doctors like to look at a person's medical history. Through electronic medical records (EMRs), ER doctors can now access decades of a person's medical history with a few clicks on the computer. Since memories tend to fade over time, EMRs can ensure ER doctors have the most accurate medical history possible and computers can organize information in a way that helps doctors focus on the most relevant parts of a patient's history.

Once an ER doctor sees a troubling issue, he or she may call in a specialist to assist. Each specialty doctor spent years undergoing additional education and research to better understand their area of expertise. Having that knowledge and experience allows them to diagnose and treat patients with conditions in their area faster than the ER doctor.

Session Scriptures

Daniel 5:1-17, KJV

1 Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand.

2 Belshazzar, while he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem; that the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, might drink therein.

3 Then they brought the golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of the house of God which was at Jerusalem; and the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, drank in them.

4 They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone.

5 In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaister of the wall of the king's palace: and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote.

6 Then the king's countenance was changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees smote one against another.

7 The king cried aloud to bring in the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers. And the king spake, and said to the wise men of Babylon, Whosoever shall read this writing, and shew me the interpretation thereof, shall be clothed with scarlet, and have a chain of gold about his neck, and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom.

8 Then came in all the king's wise men: but they could not read the writing, nor make known to the king the interpretation thereof.

9 Then was king Belshazzar greatly troubled, and his countenance was changed in him, and his lords were astonished.

10 Now the queen by reason of the words of the king and his lords came into the banquet house: and the queen spake and said, O king, live for ever: let not thy thoughts trouble thee, nor let thy countenance be changed:

11 There is a man in thy kingdom, in whom is the spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of thy father light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, was found in him; whom the

king Nebuchadnezzar thy father, the king, I say, thy father, made master of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, and soothsayers;

12 Forasmuch as an excellent spirit, and knowledge, and understanding, interpreting of dreams, and shewing of hard sentences, and dissolving of doubts, were found in the same Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar: now let Daniel be called, and he will shew the interpretation.

13 Then was Daniel brought in before the king. And the king spake and said unto Daniel, Art thou that Daniel, which art of the children of the captivity of Judah, whom the king my father brought out of Jewry?

14 I have even heard of thee, that the spirit of the gods is in thee, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom is found in thee.

15 And now the wise men, the astrologers, have been brought in before me, that they should read this writing, and make known unto me the interpretation thereof: but they could not shew the interpretation of the thing:

16 And I have heard of thee, that thou canst make interpretations, and dissolve doubts: now if thou canst read the writing, and make known to me the interpretation thereof, thou shalt be clothed with scarlet, and have a chain of gold about thy neck, and shalt be the third ruler in the kingdom.

17 Then Daniel answered and said before the king, Let thy gifts be to thyself, and give thy rewards to another; yet I will read the writing unto the king, and make known to him the interpretation.

Surveying the Scriptures

The book of Daniel begins with Daniel being taken to serve King Nebuchadnezzar. Nebuchadnezzar did well by Daniel, despite some early challenges including throwing Daniel and his companions into a burning fire. Eventually, Nebuchadnezzar's grandson, Belshazzar, ruled over Daniel and the relationship was different.

After reading the session scriptures, answer these questions:

1. How would you describe the setting in verses 1-4?

2. What was happening when the words were written?
3. Why did the queen recommend Daniel?

Digging Deeper

Belshazzar had an immediate reaction to the words he saw even though he didn't know what they meant. The wise men and astrologers he trusted couldn't solve the problem, so he turned to a stranger he only knew in passing for help.

After studying the scriptures and related texts as necessary, answer these questions.

1. Why do you think the king's countenance changed when he saw the words even though he didn't understand them?
2. Why do you think King Belshazzar took time to outline what he knew about Daniel?
3. Why do you think Daniel told the king to keep his gifts and give the rewards to others?

Life Application

Not all problems can be addressed in the same way. Sometimes God requires us to connect with people outside of our normal circle and who have more experience and expertise with our specific issue to help us overcome it. These relationships may be temporary or lifelong. They often start as uncomfortable until we develop a level

of trust with the person probing us for answers. Eventually, they should become a safe space for us to share our struggles as God uses that person to work with us.

To apply what we learned in this session to our life, we should:

ACCEPTING THE TREATMENT PLAN

Introduction

After hours in the ER, most patients get some form of a treatment plan. The plan may be as simple as taking over the counter pain relievers and following up with a primary care physician or it may be as complicated as getting admitted to the hospital for emergency surgery. ER doctors generally review the recommended treatment plan with the patient to gain consensus and answer any questions. The plan typically outlines the patient's diagnosis, plan of action, and potential risks or side effects.

At first, the treatment plan may shock the patient and it can take time for a patient to understand the news they just heard. They can feel relief, fear, hurt, anger, disappointment, or any other range of emotions; so, doctors do their best to deliver the news in a way the patient can accept. Ultimately, it's up to the patient whether they accept or reject the treatment plan.

Session Scriptures

Mark 10:17-27, KJV

17 And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?

18 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God.

19 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother.

20 And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth.

21 Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.

22 And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.

23 And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!

24 And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!

25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

26 And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved?

27 And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.

Surveying the Scriptures

This passage of scripture is sometimes referred to as the rich, young ruler because the same story is told in Matthew 19 and Luke 18. In Matthew, the man is described as young and in Luke, he is referred to as a ruler.

After reading the session scriptures, answer these questions:

1. How and why did the man approach Jesus?
2. What did the man lack according to Jesus?
3. How did the man receive Jesus' answer to his urgent question?

Digging Deeper

Mark's account is the only one to note that Jesus looked upon the man with love, Matthew's account is the only one to depict the man as young, and Luke's account is the only one to describe the man as a ruler.

After studying the scriptures and related texts as necessary, answer these questions.

1. Why do you think Jesus looked upon the man with love?
2. How might the man's age (young) and status (ruler) have affected his response to Jesus' answer?
3. What does the man's grief tell us about his heart?

Life Application

For every problem we have, God has a treatment plan. Some treatment plans are multi-layered, requiring us to address different things over a period of time. Some treatment plans are simple but require a complete shift in our behavior. The key to coming out of our emergency situation is accepting the treatment plan God has for us, which is often the hardest part. Accepting it also means coming to terms with the truth of who we are and what we're doing.

To apply what we learned in this session to our life, we should:

BECOMING AN E.S.T. FOR GOD

Introduction

When you call 911 and request medical assistance, an ambulance is normally sent to your location. The ambulance is manned by Emergency Medical Technicians, also called EMTs, or Paramedics. EMT training typically lasts 2-3 months while Paramedic training generally lasts 6-12 months. Both focus on very specific training aimed at keeping you alive and stable, with Paramedics receiving more extensive training to cover a broader range of issues.

Because of their intense focus, EMTs and Paramedics are often direct in communication and work to limit any distractions. They are expected to immediately assess how life-threatening a situation is and respond accordingly. They are part of the first people to respond to an emergency and their skills are critical to keeping people alive until they get full medical treatment.

Session Scriptures

Luke 10:25-37, KJV

25 And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

26 He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou?

27 And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

28 And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.

29 But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?

30 And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.

31 And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

32 And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side.

33 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him,

34 And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

35 And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.

36 Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?

37 And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

Surveying the Scriptures

Earlier in Luke 10, Jesus sent out seventy (or seventy-two depending on the translation) disciples to proclaim the Good News. When they returned to him, they joyfully shared their results.

After reading the session scriptures, answer these questions:

1. What does verse 35 suggest about the Samaritan and his relationship with the owner of the inn?
2. What does mercy mean based on how the Samaritan acted in the story?
3. What is the definition of neighbor based on Jesus' parable?

Digging Deeper

Luke is the only gospel to record the sending of the 70 (or 72). Based on other events, scholars believe it occurred in the third year of Jesus' ministry.

After studying the scriptures and related texts as necessary, answer these questions.

1. What does lawyer mean in John 10:25?
2. Why might the Samaritan being a hero in the story been an issue for the lawyer (and other Jews) hearing it?
3. What is the relationship between compassion, neighbor, and eternal life?

Life Application

Often, we seek God to answer our emergency situations, not giving much thought to whom God will use in the response. As servants of God, we are sometimes called upon to be ESTs (Emergency Spiritual Technicians). God uses ordinary people, like us, to help others through their emergencies. Sometimes, we're first on the scene, like an EMT or Paramedic. Sometimes, we're reviewing current symptoms and past circumstances to understand the needed treatment plan, like the ER doctors. Still, at other points, we're so experienced in the problem we're like the specialists.

To apply what we learned in this session to our life, we should:

EMERGENCY

Some prayers we can wait patiently for an answer. Other times, we need an immediate response from God. In those moments, it's important to understand what God responds most urgently to and why.

This Bible study will explore why God's timing varies, even when we believe we're in an emergency situation. We'll look at different stories and why God reacted the way that He did and when He did. We'll also look at why and when God expects us to respond immediately.

