



LIFE NEWS

LIFE INTERRUPTED ⚡

by Gordon Lanpher
Children's Pastor

There are some dashboard lights in your car that you should take seriously.

On the way to take my daughter to school a few weeks ago, the check engine light came on. My first thought was, "Why today? I don't have time for this, especially with what is on my plate." I got my daughter to school and headed to the mechanic; as I was pulling into their driveway, my car jumped and jerked. Not a good sign! My mechanic thought he could have it fixed that day, but after another 45 minutes of waiting, I finally got a ride and arrived at work two hours after I planned to be there. Later that day, I got a phone call saying something had happened, and the car wouldn't be ready that day. This normally wouldn't be a big deal, but my wife was out of town, and I had to get home to pick up my daughter from school. My life was interrupted in a major way!

Often times when we read Scripture, God interrupts people's lives in major ways. This is especially true in the events leading up to Christmas. In Luke 1, there was Zechariah going to perform a priestly duty, and it was his turn to perform one of the highest honors. Then all of a sudden, an angel of the LORD shows up and tells him his wife is going to have a baby in her

old age! The next thing he knows, he becomes mute! He can't explain what happened. God interrupted his life in a major way!

Then, probably one of the most spectacular ways God has ever interrupted someone's life, there is a young teenager named Mary. She was in the middle of an exciting life transition as she was pledged to be married to the person she loved. She was making plans for marriage, if not aloud, at least in her head. Suddenly the angel Gabriel showed up and shifted everything! He announced she was to carry the long-awaited Messiah - the Son of God! Mary asked the pointed question, "How can this be? I am a virgin!" The angel explained how, and on that day, the course of Mary's life was changed.

Joseph's life was also interrupted by this news through a dream (see Matthew 1). He was pledged to a virgin girl who was to have the Messiah, and he was still to marry her! Major life interruption! Life was never going to be the same. It would not be easy to explain this, and who could he tell? There was always going to be a stigma about what happened. Unwed mother was pregnant and engaged... but not to the father... and He was to marry her anyway? This was a scandalous headline... and his life was interrupted.

We don't like interruptions, especially when they

inconvenience us even a little bit. I didn't like not having my car for 30 hours, even though everything worked out. Yet, we serve a God who doesn't work when it is convenient for us. He wants to participate in our lives and wants us to do what he is doing in any given situation. Jesus was the ultimate proof that God cares about sin's effect on the world, but Jesus came to reverse that. Most interruptions won't be as radical as an angel showing up or an audible voice (but sometimes that happens). It is so easy to ignore the promptings of God because we don't have time for that. We don't have time to call that person God placed on my mind. We don't have time to stop and help the elderly woman grab a can off the top of the grocery store shelf, or we don't have time to ask if that person needs prayer. Not wanting interruptions is especially true during this holiday season. We have lists of things that need to be done, and it is easy to miss the promptings, pushing them aside.

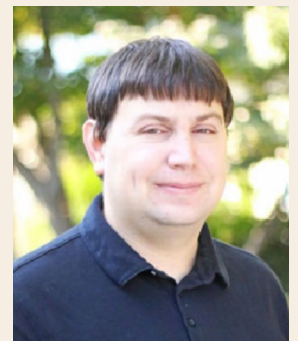
The question is simple,

Does God have permission to interrupt your life, and will you obey what he is asking of you?

As you move through the next 25 days, give God fresh permission to interrupt. May you have fresh eyes to see and ears to hear His voice. May you live this season with a Philippians 2:3-4 mindset,

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility, value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."

Let God interrupt your life this Advent season.



Gordon Lanpher
Children's Pastor