

TEACHER OVERVIEW: THE DIVINE INTERRUPTION

(A Lesson about Discipleship)

Lesson Theme:

God sovereignly utilizes both the mundane routines of life and the uninvited crises of our circumstances to intersect our path, call us into His service, and initiate a lifelong process of intentional discipleship.

Scripture Reference List (KJV):

- Matthew 4:18
- John 4:7
- Luke 5:1–11
- Acts 9:1, 3–4
- Ecclesiastes 7:3
- Matthew 4:19–20
- John 4:28
- John 8:31–32
- Matthew 9:9–10

Lesson Segments:

SEGMENT 1: The Routine of the Unplanned Day

This segment establishes that Jesus typically interrupts us while we are faithfully engaged in our daily occupations, demonstrating that our ordinary routines are the primary soil for His divine appointments.

SEGMENT 2: The Catalyst of the Uninvited Crisis

This segment examines how God uses sudden, difficult disruptions to break our self-reliance and reveal that sorrow and trial are often tools used to refine the heart and reorient our focus toward eternity.

SEGMENT 3: The Moment of the Left-Behind Life

This segment focuses on the immediate, transformative response required by the believer—the conscious decision to abandon our old security and personal agenda in order to follow the Master.

SEGMENT 4: The Process of the Disciple

This segment clarifies that discipleship is not merely a single encounter or an emotional crisis response, but a sustained, daily commitment to being mentored by Jesus and continuing in His Word.

THE DIVINE INTERRUPTION (A Lesson about Discipleship)

When an Ordinary Day Meets an Extraordinary Savior

SEGMENT 1: The Routine of the Unplanned Day (10–12 Minutes)

Theme Statement: *Before Jesus changes a life, He almost always finds that life completely immersed in the ordinary, mundane routines of the world.*

Time to Ponder: Think about the major milestones of your walk with God.

- You didn't wake up, check your day planner, and write down, "2:00 PM: Have my life flipped upside down by God."
- You were just living your life.
- You were minding your business while Jesus was minding His.
- Jesus was minding *His* business (YOU) —and our surprises are always His Sovereign Appointments.

The Scripture (KJV):

*"And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, **casting a net** into the sea: for they were fishers." — Matthew 4:18*

*"There cometh a woman of Samaria **to draw water...**" — John 4:7a*

The Heart Grip:

- Notice the verbs: *casting a net*, *drawing water*. This is the daily grind.
- Peter was thinking about bills and broken equipment.
- The woman at the well was just trying to do a chore.
- Go back even further in scripture—Moses was just chasing runaway sheep in the desert, doing a job he had done for 40 years, when a bush suddenly burst into flames.
- They didn't go out looking for a Divine Encounter that morning; they just went to work.

THE DIVINE INTERRUPTION (A LESSON ABOUT DISCIPLESHIP)

- The busyness of life is the exact place where Jesus intersects us.

LET'S READ:

Luke 5:1 And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret, (*NOTE: GALILEE*)

Luke 5:2 And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing *their* nets.

Luke 5:3 And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship.

Luke 5:4 Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.

Luke 5:5 And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.

Luke 5:6 And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.

Luke 5:7 And they beckoned unto *their* partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink.

Luke 5:8 When Simon Peter saw *it*, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.

Luke 5:9 For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken:

Luke 5:10 And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.

Luke 5:11 And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him.

Class Discussion / Reflection:

Think back to the day you truly met Jesus or experienced a massive turning point.

What "ordinary net" were you mending when He showed up?

SEGMENT 2: The Catalyst of the Uninvited Crisis (10–12 Minutes)

Theme Statement: *We rarely schedule an emergency, but the moments that break our self-reliance are the exact coordinates where Jesus intercepts our souls.*

Time to Ponder: No one plans for an emergency room visit.

- No one schedules a tragic diagnosis.
- No one wants to arrange a funeral.
- These are uninvited disruptions.
- Yet, it is often in the wreckage of our canceled plans that we finally hear His voice.

The Scripture (KJV):

"And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord... As he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth..." —

Acts 9:1, 3-4a

The Heart Grip:

- Saul had an itinerary.
- He had travel permits and a full calendar.
- But Jesus hit him with a "suddenly."

A sudden diagnosis, a sudden loss, or a sudden crisis pulls the rug out from under our self-sufficiency.

Saul didn't plan to spend that afternoon blind in the dirt, but he had to be knocked to the earth before he could look up to heaven.

Think of Zacchaeus—he just climbed a tree to watch a parade because he was short. He thought he was a spectator, but Jesus woke up that morning with a specific note on His divine calendar: *"Stop under the sycamore tree."*

The crisis or the curiosity isn't meant to destroy you;

It is the Savior seizing the moment to tell you that HE LOVES YOU.

THE DIVINE INTERRUPTION (A LESSON ABOUT DISCIPLESHIP)

CONSIDER: *SORROW IS BETTER THAN LAUGHTER*

Ecclesiastes 7:3 SORROW is better than LAUGHTER: for by the sadness of the countenance THE HEART IS MADE BETTER.

Yes, you're reading that right . . . but this is the EXACT OPPOSITE of what we want to think. The writer goes against all intuition; who among us would say that SORROW is better than LAUGHTER?

When SORROW is allowed by the Divine Hand of God - Be assured - There is a PURPOSE!

- * SORROW REVEALS unknown depths of the soul.
- * It is SORROW that causes us to THINK DEEPLY, think long, and THINK SERIOUSLY.
- * SORROW can be God's way of GETTING OUR ATTENTION.

I preach a lot of funerals and I have witnessed the PURPOSE OF SORROW first-hand. A loved-one has passed away and now the questions flow: Where did they go? Is there really a Heaven? At that moment, SORROW BREAKS the Mourner's ATTACHMENT to this world and for the first time they REALLY THINK about eternity!

I pray for a lot of people who have experienced a total break-down of health and now they realize they are not invincible and they search for and find strength they never knew existed.

Many, now live, to appreciate life more.

They are more gentle, they weep more, they realize now that LIFE is a gift. They smell the flowers, they stare at the bees stirring on the petals, and they breathe deeply and are full of thanks. They hug longer, they cry instantly, because sorrow has changed their world and changed their care-free outlook on life to a life full of appreciation.

Class Discussion / Reflection:

Why does Jesus often wait until our own plans fail before He reveals His greatest miracles to us?

Our interruption became His Opportunity to REVEAL HIS COMFORT.

SEGMENT 3: The Moment of the Left-Behind Life (10–12 Minutes)

Theme Statement: *When Christ reveals Himself on an ordinary day, the weight of His presence demands an immediate shift from our personal agenda to His divine alignment.*

Time to Ponder: When you encounter the Living God, you cannot walk away the same.

- We read these KJV scriptures like they are ancient biographies of dead people.
- But look at the person sitting in your chair right now.
- You aren't just studying Peter, Saul, or the woman at the well.
- **You are one of them.**
- You are a character in this ongoing story.

The Scripture (KJV):

"And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left their nets, and followed him." — **Matthew 4:19-20**

"The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city..." — **John 4:28**

The Heart Grip:

- Look at what was left behind: **the nets** and **the waterpot**.
- Those items represented their old security, their past identities, and their daily worries.

They caught fish, but Jesus caught *them*.

When Jesus steps into your story,

Your old life will pale in comparison.

You will stop minding your business because you've been entirely swept up in His.

He didn't stop interrupting ordinary days when the Book of Acts ended.

NOTE: The Book of Acts does not end with "THE END" it continues on.

Your uninvited moment was your Damascus Road.

When the Savior Reached Down for Me Author: G. E. Wright (1921)

*1 Once my soul was astray from the heavenly way,
And I was wretched and vile as could be;
But my Saviour above, gave me peace, joy and love,
When He reached down His hand for me.*

Chorus:

*When He reached down His hand for me,
When He reached down His hand for me;
I was lost and undone, without God or His Son,
When He reached down His hand for me.*

*2 I was nearing despair, when He came to me there,
And he showed me that I could be free;
Then He lifted my feet, gave me glory complete,
When He reached down His hand for me. [Chorus]*

*3 How my heart doth rejoice since I made Him my choice,
From the tempest to Him now I flee;
Now I lean on His arm, I'm secure from all harm,
Since He reached down His hand for me. [Chorus]*

*4 Since the Lord gave me peace heavenly joys never cease,
Lord, I give all my life unto Thee;
Guide my feet, hold my hand, grant with Thee I may stand,
For you reached down your hand for me. [Chorus]*

Class Discussion / Reflection:

What is the "waterpot" or the "net" that you had to drop when Jesus called your name?

What are you still holding onto today?

SEGMENT 4: The Process of the Disciple (10–12 Minutes)

Theme Statement: *Discipleship is not a one-time emotional response to a crisis; it is the daily process of being mentored, shaped, and walked with by Jesus long after the ordinary day has passed.*

Time to Ponder: Meeting Jesus under a tree, at a well, or on a dirt road was just Day One.

- The miracle got their attention, but the *mentorship* is what changed their eternity.
- You don't just meet Him in the Emergency Room and walk away;
- You follow Him out of the hospital and into a brand-new lifestyle.

The Scripture (KJV):

John 8:31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed;

John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

Matthew 9:9 And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him.

Matthew 9:10 And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples.

The Heart Grip:

- Notice the word "**continue.**"
- Discipleship is the "what next."
- Jesus didn't just save the fishermen from a bad fishing season;
- He spent the next three years eating with them, walking with them, and correcting them.
- They became disciples who were actively *discipled*.

When He interrupts your ordinary day, it's because He wants to share all of your tomorrows. You will naturally *want* to follow Him because the one who caught you is the only one worthy of leading you.

THE DIVINE INTERRUPTION (A LESSON ABOUT DISCIPLESHIP)

Class Challenge:

As you go about your business this week—paying bills, working, or running errands—remember that you are a character in His story.

Keep your eyes open.

Your ordinary day is His favorite place to continue your discipleship journey.

The Closing Prayer

"Heavenly Father,

We stand amazed today at how You operate. We thank You that even when we are entirely consumed with minding our own business—mending our nets, drawing our water, and managing our busy routines—You are always faithfully minding Yours, which is to seek and to save that which was lost.

Lord, thank You for the Divine Interruptions in our lives.

Thank You for the unplanned, ordinary days that You broke into with Extraordinary Grace. Forgive us for the times we viewed our crises, our sudden diagnoses, or our unexpected heartbreaks as mere accidents. Today, our eyes have been opened to see that those were the exact coordinates where You chose to intercept our souls.

As we leave this place today, help us to willingly leave behind our own waterpots and nets. Give us the courage to drop our personal agendas so we can fully align with Yours. We don't want to just be spectators who marvel at Your miracles; we want to be Disciples who continue in Your Word. Mentor us, shape us, and walk with us through all of our tomorrows.

Remind us this week that we are active characters in Your ongoing story. Keep our eyes wide open on the mundane days ahead, because we know that an ordinary day is Your favorite place to meet us.

I ask this in the precious and powerful name of Jesus, Amen."