

I'm Hurting Jesus

Love Your Neighbor(hood) series

by Pastor Chris Famisaran

Morning, everyone, thank you for braving the rain. Joining us today. Let's pray. God, we ask now that as we dive into the book of Matthew, reading guidance in Jesus name.

When you think of the continent of Antarctica, what comes to mind? Ice and cold. Maybe some penguins, right? Well, believe it or not, back in 1996-97. December and January, there was a team of climbers from The North Face and two in particular, Conrad Anker and Alex Lowe. There was a few others I can't remember, my mind slips, who else was there, travelled to Antarctica. And they went to this little area called I'm hope I'm saying this right. It's the Queen mob land. And in that specific part of Antarctica are these huge rock faces. Now Alex and Conrad were some of the best climbers at the time. And they went, and they were climbing these huge faces of rock. It was amazing. And later that year, you know, the north face being good marketers that they were, they created a catalog and they sent it to me because I loved the outdoors. And at the time, you know, I had dreams of being a famous alpinist. And when I received that catalog, I took it in and I looked through all the gear but as awesome as the gear was what really drew me were all of these pictures of Alex and Conrad, just claiming these immense slabs of rock. All in Antarctica, you would think in Antarctica, how did they battle with all the blizzards and they did deal with storms. But being that it was December, January, it was their summer, so it wasn't as bad. And it just blew my mind. Wow. And so these two guys kind of became like my climbing heroes. And they just they would become regular climbing buddies. And they would climb all the time together. Later on Alex in 1999. It was around May, June, he would go on to climb with Jared Ogden and Mark Saynot too I think it was the first attempt on the great Trango Tower in Pakistan. And I just remember being you know, a young adult at that time all that was amazing. Alex was a huge inspiration for me. Later that year, in September, October, Alex and Conrad they teamed up again but this time with a whole bunch of other athletes from The North Face. And they

wanted to attempt to climb up Mount Shishapangma so maybe you're like oh wow. It's it's a peak that's over 8000 feet and their goal Alex his goal was to climb to the top and ski down to be the first to ski down and 8000 meter peak 1000 meters is how high? It's over 26,000 feet. Okay, not a lot of air up there. Very thin air. And it was his dream his goal to not only just, you know, do that, but he wanted it to to climb but also ski down a really awesome aesthetic line. The Southwest face mount Shishapangma was probably the best face that they could probably get up to and climb and then ski down. However, on October 5, 1999, Alex and Conrad as they were always teamed up and along with a filmmaker and aspiring filmmaker by the name of David Bridgers. were crossing a glacier. And as they looked up, they saw a Ceric break off. cause an avalanche and when it hit the avalanche, the wind gust the wind blast knocked Conrad out of the way. He went one way and I believe I remember the story right Alex and David ran the other way. What ended up happening was, Conrad survives, it's broken ribs. His face was smashed up. He would physically be okay. Mentally, it was a different story. Because one of his best friends, his brother, you know, when you climb tall peaks, like the great Trango Tower, or in Queen Milan or any kind of climbing, when you're roped up, you are trusting what with that person, your life. And they didn't just go to places where it was nice and warm. It was cold, it was painful. They'd suffered. They were like brothers, they trusted each other. They knew their instincts, they could be able to do things without even having to say anything. That was the kind of relationship that Conrad and Alex had.

And unfortunately, on that fateful day, the avalanche swept up Alex and David, and wouldn't be seen for 17 years. When you're up that high, safety is paramount. They tried for 20 hours to find David and Alex. But to no avail. Later, 17 years in 2016, Olish Stak and another famous alpinist realized and saw, hey, there's two bodies down there in the crevasse and a glacier. Realizing who it was, they informed Conrad. Conrad eventually got to know Alex's wife. And eventually they got married and Conrad ended up raising Alex's son's. But for many years, Conrad struggled just with the grief of losing his brother, his friend. And even so feeling guilty because well, what if we'd done this? What if we done that? What if we, there's so many what ifs? And unfortunately, you know, they were playing a dance, a dangerous dance. When you're up that high. Anything can happen. Conrad, eventually, when they did find Alex, and they were able to peacefully

have a proper burial and everything he finally was relieved, but it took many years. Grief set in side.

When we look at Scripture, and we look at the life of Jesus, did Jesus ever grieve? When you look at let's go to let's go to Matthew chapter 14. There's a story here, that it's it's very easy to to just gloss over. But when you look at it, it's very profound. There's a big lesson here that I think we can take. Matthew, chapter 14, we find Jesus going out and about healing, teaching and preaching. But he's informed of some big news. He had a cousin, what was his name? John, also known as John the Baptist. And John the Baptist had a little bit of a word battle with Herod the Tetrarch. Herod the Tetrarch, was a local ruler. And let's just say he had a relationship that was very inappropriate with, I think, was it his brother's wife? Yeah, Phillips wife. And so John calls them out. And it says, Hey, what you're doing, it's not appropriate. Now, Herod, wanted to get rid of John. But because John was so influential, he feared John's disciples and the greater crowd. Now, on Herod's birthday, as it says, in verse six, the daughter of Herodias was dancing for the guests, and Herod and everyone was pleased. And he made an oath, he made a promise, hey, ask for whatever you want. And I will grant it. Folks when you make oaths, be very careful what you ask for. Because what did she ask for? Well, Herodias took opportunity to get rid of John here. And so he, she informs her daughter, I want you to ask for John the Baptist said, well, the king was distressed, because you can't just make an oath and back off from it, right. So he had to follow through. He couldn't look bad in front of his dinner guests. So he called for John the Baptist's literal head, took the head, put it on a platter and gave it to a Herodias. Different world, right. And afterwards, we find in verse 12, John's disciples then came and took his body and buried it. And then at verse 12, the end of verse 12. It says, They went and told Jesus.

Now for Jesus, this was very traumatic coming, he lost lost a loved one. And but what does Jesus do? How does he respond? In verse 13? When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. So after hearing John the Baptist, his cousin being murdered, what did Jesus do? He went away to grieve. To spend some time we don't know exactly how long. They're in the midst of this. Jesus himself was hurting. Yeah, because as popular as Jesus was, what came next when Jesus came back, who was looking for him? We find that in verse

13, hearing this, the crowds followed Him on foot from the town. And when Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had what he had compassion on them, and healed their sick. Jesus couldn't escape from his role. Jesus had a large role, a very influential role. He was there to, as it says, in Luke four, to teach, preach, to baptize to bring healing, to make those who were blind to see. And it never stopped. One of the challenges that even sometimes even when we experienced when, when we may lose a loved one, or when we're just feeling so overwhelmed, we think God, I just cannot, I cannot be in this place. How? How can I continue to minister when I'm hurting? That's something that we've been talking about, and especially I think I highlighted last week was that even in your brokenness, there's something that you can give, you can understand, you can relate you can share. And, and so just like Jesus, however, though, we're not immune to heartache, we live in a broken world, our hearts are going to be hurt, amen. How many of you have not experienced that we've all experienced that we've all experienced heartache, at one point, from the loss of a loved one, to being betrayed, to things not going your way. And yet, we also live in a broken world, or broken people, called to minister to others. And so what did Jesus do though, upon hearing, he took some time to go to a solitary place to grieve. And when he was ready to come back and serve, but you know, when you're grieving, does it just go away? No, if you truly loved sometimes it sticks with us. Sometimes it takes a while. And even sometimes it could be 20 years, 30 years. And that pain is still there, every once in a while. But by God's grace, God can work on our hearts, and still equip us to serve. So Jesus, he took time to deal with his grief. And it's important that when we lose a loved one, take time, it's okay. When we push it down, what are we just doing? We're only prolonging the inevitable deal with your grief. So Jesus, right off the bat that when he comes back, people are waiting for him. And as it says, he had compassion on them. And when he comes back, he's healing. He's teaching he's preaching.

He notices that... this is funny. I know. I've read this story so many times. I really realize what time of the day it was. It was evening. And all these people would come and they were hungry. So it says in verse 15, As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, Hey, this is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds way so that they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food. You couldn't just go down to the local McDonald's or the local routes,

right? People back then they had to raise their crops to raise their own food, or they traded for their own food. But what's Jesus respond with? They don't need to go away. You give them something to eat. Oh, you think the disciples What do you think they were thinking when Jesus said that? They're like you have the ability to make food we can't. Right or like it taking it literally like Jesus. There's nothing around here. Well, what do we got? I said, Well, we got five loaves of bread and two fish the answer. Verse 18, says, bring them here to me. And he directed the people to sit down on the grass, taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, He gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples and the disciples gave them to the people. They ate, and we're satisfied. And the disciples picked up 12 baskets full of broken pieces that were left over. So not only did God take what this very little meager amount of food and then blessed it. He there was plenty that was left over 12 basketfulls. And it wasn't just a small group, it was a big group, over 5000 Men, besides women and children. So let's say there are women and children there. We can easily double it. 10,000 people, it's amazing. They all ate and were what? Satisfied, didn't go away, hungry. Very simple meal. And the disciples picked up the 12 basketfulls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was 5000 men besides women and children. What's interesting here is you know, Jesus, I love this story. Because Jesus, he pushed the disciples to play key roles in ministering to others. Jesus definitely served others, but he wanted to include helping to teach to mentor. Jesus created a team around him to help minister and ultimately he was preparing them for his impending death. And then when he would leave, he was leading by example. He taught them well and how to do their job right down to the very basics.

Now for years, William Wilberforce, he pushed to Britain's parliament to abolish slavery. So as you can tell, this is a long time ago, and discouraged as he was, he was about to give up. He had a friend by the name of John Wesley, who was another very, very famous minister, who heard of it and even on his deathbed, he he got some pen and paper and he wrote, and with the trembling hand, Wesley wrote a must God has raised you up for this very thing, you will be worn out by the opposition of men and devils. But if God be for you, who can be against you? Are all of them stronger than God? All be not weary of well doing go on in the name of God and in the power of his mind, till even American slavery shall vanish

away before it. Now six days later, John Wesley passes away. But Wilberforce fought for another 44-45 years and in 1833, three days before his own death, slavery was abolished in Britain.

Wilberforce needed some encouragement, and how can we as followers of Jesus, how can we help we can be encouragers, just like Wesley was, to those around us. Those who are hurting who are grieving or just plain exhausted. A note of encouragement can do what can mean the world, just being recognized, being present around the world, there are plenty of people who are hurting yet still making a commitment to go out and share the gospel. You know, one of our ministries of the church is ADRA. Adventist Development Relief Agency. And when an earthquake happens at a typhoon or hurricane, they go into places where things are just torn apart. And yet, they're able to go out and help those by providing basic needs, helping them to get the things that they need. Worldwide missions also goes out and helps those there's another organization they're not they're not Christian, but they're making a difference you would think how important is water? Dumb question, right? Water says it's life saving. And yet how much of the water is clean around the world? It's so easy for us just to go to a tap and turn it on. And it's cleaner than most of the world. It's water, amen. Even our toilet bowls water is cleaner, the most water in the world. And so what waves of water wastewater does is they just go out and they help bring clean filtered water into the world and go to the most difficult places in the world. But in that sometimes you're gonna see heartache you're gonna see tragedy and sometimes even in our own pain. there things that we are dealing with sometimes we just sometimes I think to be honest, we sometimes just wish Can I just take a pass Earlier this week I woke up. I'm not gonna lie, I was a little depressed. The day before I'd received news that a friend of mine had passed away.

And I was upset. Why God? Why would you allow a young woman who has kids who had the future? Why would you allow him that and I don't know. And I struggled as I was preparing for the slog, good grief, I'm experiencing, I have to walk the talk on this. I don't know why God allowed this to happen. What I do know though is I can take her memory, the good that she brought the stubbornness, tenacity that she lived by being a faithful follower of Jesus Christ.

My friends, sometimes the world can be a very painful place. But man, not let us be stopped may not stop you from being unkind. And doing good, can be a blessing to others, just like Jesus, even in his own grief. He was able to go out and move forward. And so I want to encourage you, may God grant you courage, grant you strength to go forth, to share the gospel with others. And to be an example. Maybe moms and dads out there too, as I was especially thinking about this, some of you maybe you know, maybe your kids are older now. You're out of that phase. But how many of you remember going to work coming back and having to remember, Oh, I got to feed my kids. I got to send them to bed. Gotta get all of that homework done. And it can be weary. Amen. Or maybe you've got a newborn, and you're not sleeping well. whatever life brings you know, that God is faithful. God will grant you the wisdom and the strength to go forward. So we're in life has pain and struggle helped or challenged your faith. Where in your life has pain and struggle helped or challenged your faith? This week? Find someone you know who is struggling or really grieving by listening and praying for them. Doesn't matter who. So may God bless you, lead and guide you. They will be the ambassadors Jesus has called us to be Father in heaven.

Thank you, Lord, for your good and your mercy endures forever. And all things Lord, we give you thanks and praise. Thank you, Lord for the rain. Help us Lord, as we go for it to be the ambassador's as you've called us to be. There'll be be loving and maybe we be kind. For our brothers and sisters here who are grieving Lord, we pray that your hands of comfort, and Grace and peace be upon them. For those who are just struggling Lord, even just to get by. Lord we pray that wisdom and the means will be provided. Lord, for those who are dealing Lord with just mental stress, emotionally just wrung out Lord, and even just those who are spiritually, God, just they're questioning if you're even real. God, please attend to them. Those who have questions, Lord, they let them know that they always have a place to be able to come here and ask questions. In Jesus name, everybody said, Amen. Grace and peace, everyone. God bless you all.