

# Turning Bad Days Into Good Days

## I. Did Jesus ever have a day that was so bad that He wanted to escape from it?

A. Matthew 13 & 14 tells of one such day in the life of our Lord. One that was full of ups and downs.

1.. **13:54-58 - He experienced internal rejection and ignorant unbelief.**

2. 14:1-12 - He experienced intense sorrow and an immediate threat - Luke 13:31.

3. **14:14 - He experienced immense crowds and insensitive interruptions.**

B. Verse 13 tells us that as a result he wanted to get away, “*When He heard about John, He withdrew from there in a boat, to a lonely place by Himself.*”

**The Message says it this way, “*When Jesus got the news about John, He slipped away by boat to an out-of-the-way place by Himself. But unsuccessfully, someone saw Him and the word got around. Soon a lot of people from the nearby villages walked around the lake to where He was.*”**

II. At this point Jesus could continue to react to the bad day He was having or He could allow His Father to redeem it by bring forth good from the midst of the bad.

**Matthew 14:14 - tells us three things that Jesus had to change in order for this redemption to take place.**

A. He Had A Change Of Priorities - “*He went ashore*” - From His welfare to God’s Glory.

1. **His priority changed from His welfare to God’s glory - He went ashore.**

a He could have stayed in the boat

**b. There will always be a boat (comfort zone) that you could stay in.**

2. What is the glory of God? - It’s a demonstration of who He is in the midst of who we are.

**a. John 1:14 states, *And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory.***

b. Jesus lived in the flesh, but He demonstrated the “*Word of God*” in His life.

**c. When people see the Glory of His Word in the midst of the weakness of our flesh we glorified the Lord.**

1) When we demonstrate forgiveness while experiencing injury, we bring glory to God.  
**(My Dad)**

2) **When we demonstrate generosity while experiencing want for own needs, we bring glory to God**

- 3) **When we demonstrate mercy to others while experiencing judgment from them, we bring glory to God**
  - 4) When we demonstrate faithfulness in tithing while experiencing financial difficulty, we bring Glory to God
  - 5) **When we demonstrate kindness to others, while experiencing cruelty, we bring glory to God**
  - 6) When we minister to the lives of others at the cost of our own, we bring glory to God.
  - 7) **When we demonstrate the strength of the Word while experiencing the weakness of the flesh we bring glory to God**
3. When Jesus puts the needs of the crowd above His need for solitude, He glorified the Father and brought forth good from the bad.

**B. He Had A Change Of Perspective - "He saw a great multitude"**

1. From the opposition He was enduring to the opportunities that He could embrace.  
**He had to get His eyes off the opposition of His circumstances**  
He had to put His eyes on the opportunities of the crowd.
2. **Jesus sets the example for us by demonstrating the principle that the battle that you are called to, is not the one that is being waged against you, but the one that is being waged against others.**
3. He understood that you can't fight for the lives of others, while you're seeking to preserve your own
4. **The moment you decide that even in the face of loss, you are going to continue to battle so others might gain, is the moment you get your breakthrough. Hebrews 10:32-34**
  - a. After Being enlightened you will always have to endure a conflict - 1 Corinthians 16:9.
    - 1) **One translation says "you weren't defeated by the struggle."**
    - 2) The fire will always bring a fight, the burden will always bring a battle.
    - 3) **But, "don't be defeated by the struggle" for God will use the fight to make you fit and He will use the battle to make you better.**
  - b. "Partly" half of the battle is comprised of what is happening to us:
    - 1) **Being a spectacle - Battling yourself (*fears, inferiority, inadequacies*).**
      - Christians who let their weaknesses and inadequacies hold them back are just as self-focused as are believers who use their gifts and strengths to build there own little kingdoms.

- **God is not impressed by our gifts, but neither is He frightened by our weaknesses.**

2) Reproaches - Battling others (misunderstandings, tradition insecurities).

3) **Tribulations - Battling circumstances (sickness, delays, breakdowns, Hardships).**

c. *“Partly” the other half of the battle is comprised of what is happening to others: “we share in with those who are being so treated”*

### **C. He Had A Change Of Perception - "He felt compassion for them"**

1. **He had to quit seeing the crowd not as demanding but needy.**

Not as selfish but sickly - **Not as hurtful to hurting.**

2. Being needy will make you demanding, being sickly will make you selfish, experiencing pain will cause you to want to inflict pain

a. **We are not to treat others the way their sins deserve but treat them the way the Son deserves.**

1) In other words we don't condemn people for how they are , but seek to conform them to how they should be.

2) **It's not our job to bring punishment to their sin but to bring production to their soul.**

b. This will be difficult for us, because our human propensity is to want to judge their sin instead of loving their soul. The reason we do this is because it is easier.

- **It is easier to point out a weakness instead of pouring in His Strength**

- It is easier to denounce people's flaws instead of developing their faith.

- **It is easier to criticize people's failings instead of caring for their future**

- It is easier to condemn people's habits instead of comforting their hurts.

D. Because Jesus was able to make a change of priorities, a change of perspective, and a change of perception a channel of power was opened to Him. This channel of power was able to accomplish three things.

1. **Matthew 14:14 - All were fixed. (Healed)**

a. **It says Jesus healed all of their sick, not some of their sick, or the righteous of the sick, or the deserving of the sick, but all of them.**

b. Let me ask you some rhetorical questions:

- **would Jesus heal someone that wasn't worthy of good health?**

- would some use their new-found health to hurt others?
- **would Jesus release tongues that would someday curse?**
- would Jesus give sight to eyes that would lust?
- **would Jesus heal hands that would someday kill?**
- would Jesus give gifts to people who may use them for evil?
- **The answer to all of these questions is YES!**

c. The reason being is that His goodness is spurred by His nature and not our worthiness.

- **Our evil cannot diminish His love nor can our goodness increase it.**
- Each time Jesus healed or blessed He had to overlook both the past and the future.
- **Something that He still does and requires us to do.**

2 Mark 6:34 - All were fueled. (Taught)

3. Matthew 14:15-21 - All were fed.

We too, can have a channel of power opened to us if when things are going wrong in our flesh we still demonstrate the “*Word of God*” by allowing God to change our perspective, priorities, and perceptions.

**Real Christianity isn’t about making our lives better, but about making our communities, our city, our state, our nation, and our world better.**

We have put so much emphasis on avoiding evil, that we have become virtually blind to the endless opportunities for doing good.

**We need to stop defining holiness through what we separate ourselves from and start defining it by what we give ourselves to.**

We need to always contend with these facts:

- **that the God of light insists on traveling into dark places**
- that the God of peace continuously involves Himself in the conflicts of men
- **that the God of good will always engage the evil doing of mankind.**
- so that the evil may be defeated, and the doer of that evil, may be delivered.

**For Jesus this went from one of His worse days to one of His best days**