

OVERTAKEN #3

Kenny Luck

"Sometimes I ask God, my rock-solid God, "Why did you let me down? Why am I walking around in tears, harassed by enemies?" They're out for the kill, these tormentors with their obscenities, taunting day after day, "Where is this God of yours?" Psalm 42:9-10 MSG

From noon to three, the whole earth was dark. Around mid-afternoon Jesus groaned out of the depths, crying loudly, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?" Matthew 27:45-46 MSG

PAIN _____.

PAIN _____.

PAIN _____.

"Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone? A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken." Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 NLT

IN PAIN AND ISOLATION PEOPLE ARE EITHER...

OR _____

relief (def): the feeling of happiness that occurs when something unpleasant or distressing stops; a removal or lessening of something painful or troubling; something that interrupts in a welcome way

MEN MOBILIZED TO BRING RELIEF

"During this time, as the disciples were increasing in numbers by leaps and bounds, hard feelings developed among the Greek-speaking believers—"Hellenists"—toward the Hebrew-speaking believers because their widows were being discriminated against in the daily food lines. So the Twelve called a meeting of the disciples. They said, "It wouldn't be right for us to abandon our responsibilities for preaching and teaching the Word of God to help with the care of the poor. So, friends, choose seven men from among you whom everyone trusts, men full of the Holy Spirit and good sense, and we'll assign them this task. Meanwhile, we'll stick to our assigned tasks of prayer and speaking God's Word." The congregation thought this was a great idea. They went ahead and chose—Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, Nicolas, a convert from Antioch. Then they presented them to the apostles. Praying, the apostles laid on hands and commissioned them for their task. The Word of God prospered. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased dramatically. Not least, a great many priests submitted themselves to the faith." Acts 6:1-7 MSG

The Holy Spirit says: "_____."

Secure (def): free from danger or risk of loss; safe or easy in mind, assured and having no doubt

A SPIRIT EMPOWERED MAN...

MAKES OTHERS FEEL SECURE _____

“And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession – to the praise of his glory.” Ephesians 1:13-14 NIV

MAKES OTHERS FEEL SECURE _____

The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery, and having set her in the center of the court, they said to Him, “Teacher, this woman has been caught in adultery, in the very act. Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women; what then do You say?” They were saying this, testing Him, so that they might have grounds for accusing Him. But Jesus stooped down and with His finger wrote on the ground. But when they persisted in asking Him, He straightened up, and said to them, “He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.” John 8:3-7 NASB

“Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed.” Psalm 82:3

MAKES OTHERS FEEL SECURE _____

“This is how we’ve come to understand and experience love: Christ sacrificed his life for us. This is why we ought to live sacrificially for our fellow believers, and not just be out for ourselves. If you see some brother or sister in need and have the means to do something about it but turn a cold shoulder and do nothing, what happens to God’s love? It disappears. And you made it disappear. My dear children, let’s not just talk about love; let’s practice real love.” 1 John 3:16-18 MSG

MAKES OTHERS FEEL SECURE _____

"Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin." John 8:7-11 NIV

HERE WE GO!

Holy Spirit, I accept Your mission to the vulnerable ones in my world. Today make me a champion to someone who is feeling forgotten by people or even by You today. Bring somebody to my mind right now or across my path that I can come alongside to be Your strong hands and feet. Forgive me for just being sympathetic toward the vulnerable and thinking that is adequate. Help me to lay down my life, sacrifice myself, and give of myself in order to restore someone’s dignity and worth in Your name. That’s what You did with me! Help me remember that as I live. Give me the courage and freedom, Holy Spirit, to cross all cultural lines that prevent Your love from flowing to those in need. Free me to live for an audience of one! Thank you, Holy Spirit, for helping me to feel secure in God’s love, sensing His inclusion of me, His protection of me, His provision for me, and His direction to me out of His love. I am ready to let those same actions flow out of me toward others. Thank You for making me feel secure. Now help me be like you in the lives of others. In Jesus name, Amen

FOR DISCUSSION:

**CAN YOU THINK OF TIME WHEN CIRCUMSTANCES OR CHOICES LEFT YOU ISOLATED?
CAN YOU THINK OF A TIME WHEN YOU WERE ALONE, IN NEED AND RELIEF ARRIVED?
WHICH HOLY SPIRIT ACTION TO MAKE OTHERS FEEL SECURE RESONATES WITH YOU?
HOW WILL TODAY’S WORD FROM GOD “SHIFT” THE WAY YOU LIVE GOING FORWARD?**

