



Dealing with Impossible People

**Matt. 11:28 - “Come to Me, all you
who labor and are heavy laden, and
I will give you rest”**

Dealing with Impossible People

- Job 14:1 - “Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble.”
- Job 5:7 - “Yet man is born to trouble, As the sparks fly upward.”
- John 16:33 - “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”
- “A Christian without affliction is like a soldier only on parade” (Felix Neff)

Dealing with Impossible People

- It is harder to deal with burdens when they are generated by people
 - By fellow human beings who ought to know what it is like to share the human condition
 - By fellow Christians who ought to know better because you share the same faith
 - By family members who ought to love you
 - When the physical world randomly gives us pain, we find it easier to accept than when a fellow human being thoughtlessly or purposefully hurts us

Dealing with Impossible People

- Three kinds of people who inflict pain on others
 - Thoughtless users who will not wake up enough to care about the burden they are to others. “I just didn’t think...”
 - Self-righteous know-it-alls who are convinced the pain they inflict on others is in their best interest. “I know what’s best for...”
 - Deliberate evil doers who do not care or even delight in causing pain for others. “It’s my life...”

Dealing with Impossible People

- Which one is the worst?
 - ALL OF THEM!!!
 - No, I don't care if you think the thoughtless one is the least objectionable. Thoughtlessness is evil; they don't have a right to their insensitivity or to express their inconsiderate opinions
 - I'm not preaching to those who are impossible people. In most cases, they are reprobate and headed to perdition anyway.
 - I am preaching to those they are hurting.

Dealing with Impossible People

- For those who are afflicted by impossible people -- you are not alone
 - Psalm 55

How Did Jesus Deal With Impossible People?

- Rejection and mistreatment from family
 - John 2:3-5 - Manipulation from His mother brought direct address
 - Mark 3:21 - His family said he was out of His mind; He ignored it
 - Mark 3:30-31 - Tried to monopolize His time; He said His audience was His family now
 - John 7:3-5 - His brothers tried to send Him away and did not believe Him; He did not allow it to interfere with His work

How Did Jesus Deal With Impossible People?

- Rejection and mistreatment from the people He was trying to save
- How did Jesus handle missionaries of misery?
 - He never let them set the agenda for His work or teaching.
 - He ignored them or moved on.
 - He used their negativity as an opportunity for instruction.
 - Sometimes the situation was hopeless, and Jesus just let them go and die in their negativity, bitterness, and sins.
- Sometimes for the health of our own souls, we have to let a relationship die. Some people are just too toxic to our own spiritual health to be around them

How Did Jesus Deal With Impossible People?

- Betrayal and abandonment from His friends
 - Peter denied the Lord - Luke 22:55-61
 - The other disciples with the exception of John forsook Him - Matt. 26:56
 - Judas betrayed Him - John 18:5
- After Peter repented, Jesus restored and forgave him - John 21:15-19
 - It's easier and more tempting to keep score of the ones who have let us down. It is critical that we fight that line of thought

How Did Jesus Deal With Impossible People?

- Horrible treatment from humankind
 - Matt. 5:43-48
- But that doesn't mean that the evil ones get away with it. Imagine what they will feel in His Presence on Judgment Day
 - Acts 17:30-31 - "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, 31 because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

How Should We Deal With Impossible People?

- Take your enemy to the right place
 - Fretting won't help
 - Phil. 4:6 - "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God"
 - It serves no purpose but to drain your resources.

How Should We Deal With Impossible People?

- Take your enemy to the right place
 - Friends don't always help
 - Job 13:4-5 - "But you forgers of lies, You are all worthless physicians. 5 Oh, that you would be silent, And it would be your wisdom!"

How Should We Deal With Impossible People?

- The problem with friends is that sometimes they will lie to you
- They will allow you to wallow in self-pity and tell you that you have a right to do so.
- They may sympathize with you, but can't really help you solve the serious issues of life
- A real friend will tell you the truth, even when it tears your heart out at a time when you least need it - Prov. 27:6

How Should We Deal With Impossible People?

- Take your enemy to the right place
 - Fleeing won't always help
 - Fighting seldom helps
 - Prov. 22:10 - "Cast out the scoffer, and contention will leave; Yes, strife and reproach will cease."

How Should We Deal With Impossible People?

- Take your enemy to the right place
 - The Father will help
 - Heb. 4:16 - “Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”
 - Luke 12:32 - “Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”

How Should We Deal With Impossible People?

- Transfer your enemy to the right Being
 - There is One Who cares about your situation
 - 1Peter 5:7 - “casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”
 - Heb. 4:15 - “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.”

How Should We Deal With Impossible People?

- Transfer your enemy to the right Being
 - There is One who can do something about our situation.
 - Eph. 3:20 - “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us”
 - Job 42:2 - “I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You.”
 - Isa. 40:12 - “Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, Measured heaven with a span And calculated the dust of the earth in a measure? Weighed the mountains in scales And the hills in a balance?”

How Should We Deal With Impossible People?

- Trust your enemy to the right position
 - Sometimes God will remove your enemy
 - The widow of Zarephath - 1 Kings 10

How Should We Deal With Impossible People?

- Trust your enemy to the right position
 - Sometimes He will relieve the pressure of your enemy
 - There are times when the Lord will leave the burden on your shoulders, but He will lighten it a bit.
 - He did not give Ruth her husband back, but He allowed her to meet Boaz - Ruth 2-3

How Should We Deal With Impossible People?

- Trust your enemy to the right position
 - Sometimes He will rest you with your enemy
 - He gives us grace to bear with the burden of the evil doer we have been assigned
 - 2Cor. 12:9 - “And He said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness. Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”

How Should We Deal With Impossible People?

- However God chooses to handle your situation, know that He will always do what is right for your life
 - Rom. 8:32 - “He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?”

How Should We Deal With Impossible People?

- He will give you what you need
 - Phil. 4:19 - “And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”
 - 1Cor. 10:13 - “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”

Practically Speaking

- Impossible people are a fact of life.
 - Sin causes pain and people commit sin; therefore, people will cause pain
 - Like death, taxes, inflation, old age, and winter, it is a part of life under the sun. We do not escape it in this life
 - “But it’s not fair!” Who said life was going to be fair?
 - Evil doers come and go like the seasons; their sins make it likely that they will go sooner than later; be patient until the season changes

Practically Speaking

- You can only change you.
 - It is easier to stop death, taxes, inflation, old age and winter than it is to force a change on a thoughtless or self-righteous or deliberate impossible person

Practically Speaking

- Start by changing the way you think of them
 - They are to be pitied; they are without the love and respect of good folk in this world, and will be in hell without God in the next
 - They have no true power over you; they cannot influence God or the righteous to think differently of you
 - You do not deserve to be treated this way; stop blaming yourself for their evil minds; God Himself does not take responsibility for the sins of men

Practically Speaking

- Change the way you speak to them
 - Don't accept any responsibility for their ungodly treatment of you
 - Put them on the spot to give Biblical, moral justification for their sinful treatment of you, and refuse to allow the relationship to continue until they answer or repent
 - Speak in calm, even tones; avoid emotional responses

Practically Speaking

- Change the way you interact with them.
 - They have proven themselves to be swine by their words and works; stop casting the pearls of your love, time and resources before them
 - They have proven themselves unrighteous by their words and works; why do you continue to have a relationship with them?
 - Acts 13:46 - “It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles.”
 - You are authorized to do this by the example of Jesus and the apostles. If anyone tells you that they could do it because they were inspired but you are not, they make the argument of a fool.

Practically Speaking

- Change what you do for them
 - Resist your instinct for revenge - Rom. 12:17
 - Stake out the moral high ground of peace - Rom. 12:18
 - Move out of God's way - Rom. 12:19
 - Kill your enemies with kindness - Rom. 12:20
 - Pray that God will give them time to repent - Matt. 5:44