

# The Road to Resilience

## Sermon Outline

Sunday, December 8, 2019

### Matthew 27: 27 – 66

- 1) The Soldiers Mock Jesus (27-31)
- 2) The Crucifixion of Jesus (32-44)
- 3) The Death of Jesus (45-56)
- 4) The Burial of Jesus (57-61)
- 5) The Guard at the Tomb (62-66)

**1) Definition of Resilience:** The capacity of a system to retain its central functions before, during and after a hazard strikes.

- a) **CREW (Communities Responding to Extreme Weather):** A community-based organization that equips community leaders and volunteers with the training, local organizational structures and technological support need to build climate resilience.
- b) **Goal:** Building Resilience – so that you can recover effectively when disaster strikes.

### 2) Jesus: Chief Resiliency Officer

What was Jesus' central function? Jesus "came to seek and to save the lost" ([Luke 19:1-10](#)), and this salvation comes through the pouring out of His blood "for many for the forgiveness of sins" ([Matt. 26:26-29](#)).

### 3) 7 C's (signs) of Resilience:

- a) **Competence:** [knowledge, know-how and skills required to succeed in a particular task.](#)
  - Over time, people knew Jesus was competent, and sought Him out for answers and to hear what He had to say.
  - Key is **practice**. Jesus called ordinary people, fisherman to accomplish one of the most important tasks that we have – to make disciples. *"Come, follow me,...and I will make you fishers of men"* (Matthew 4:19)
  - For today, Jesus has given us His Word (knowledge), know-how (mentors, pastors, teachers, legends) and skills (Holy Spirit, gifts, talents ).
- b) **Confidence:** [Belief in your own abilities.](#)
  - Jesus was God. He knew who He was and His purpose, which guided His every decision.
  - We falter because we often lack confidence in who we are, what we can do and what we can endure. This was critical for Judah when Sennacherib, king of Assyria came to threaten them in 2 Chronicles 32:1-8. They had every right to be scared because of what they already did to Israel/Samaria.
- c) **Connection:** [Developing close ties to family and community.](#)
  - Studies and observations after Hurricane Katrina showed a high correlation between your chance of survival and welfare checks by those in their network.
  - Connection is an essential source of not only physical help when you need it, but emotional help; it is a source of hope!
  - *"My God, My God, Why have you forsaken me?"* (Matthew 27:46) The disconnect from God during that moment when Jesus bore the burden of sin for the whole world was devastating. God had to remove his connection to Him because He cannot dwell with Sin! That connection was key to His success in completing the task.

- d) **Character:** Solid set of morals and values to determine right from wrong and demonstrate a caring attitude towards others.
- Jesus went through six trials. In that one night, he was brought before Annas (the father-in-law of Caiaphas), Caiaphas (the high priest), the Sanhedrin (the religious Supreme Court), Pilate (the governor of Jerusalem), Herod (the governor of Galilee), and then Pilate again. At the end of those six trials, what did they find to accuse him of? **Nothing**. They convicted Him on claiming to be the Son of God!
  - Why didn't they just ignore Him, consider Him crazy and keep it moving? Because He mattered, Had an impact, and Posed a Threat!
- e) **Contribution:** Understanding that you matter in making the world a better place – source of purpose and motivation.
- What does Jesus offer us through His crucifixion and resurrection? Salvation and Eternal life.
  - He was motivated by love.
- f) **Coping:** Being prepared for life's challenges
- In 2005 in New Orleans, Hurricane Katrina killed over 1800 people and caused over \$100 billion in property damage.
  - Why?
    - (1) Confusion: Federal agencies were unfamiliar with roles and responsibilities, and had many inexperienced personnel in charge.
    - (2) Failure to Learn: Federal agencies did a simulation exercise one year prior for a hurricane of similar strength but failed to implement learnings.
    - (3) Communications Breakdown: Agencies could not communicate with one another due to equipment failures and lack of systems being able to talk with one another and share information.
    - (4) Supply Failures: Although supplies were collected beforehand, they were located too far away from the need.
    - (5) Indecision: Too many cooks in the kitchen led to delays in medical attention and recovery efforts.
    - (6) Fraud and Abuse: It is estimated that over \$1 billion in aid was invalid.
  - Research shows dramatic increases in suicide and PTSD after major disasters and they intensify over time because the grim reality of loss and destruction sets in creating greater despair and hopelessness. Thus, more violence and lack of connection. (Connection and Coping are closely related.)
  - Jesus Feeding of the 5000: He gave the disciples hands-on experience in learning to care for others. He didn't just have them sit back and watch *Him* meet people's needs – he got them actively *involved* in ministering to the people around them.
- g) **Control:** You can control the outcomes by your decisions.
- The choice you make can determine your outcomes.
  - When Peter cut off the ear of the servant of the high priest when they came to arrest Jesus, 1) Jesus put the ear back on; 2) He demonstrated restraint.
  - Jesus' choices confirmed His identity (Son of God) and character (fruit of the Spirit)
  - Hymn – *I have decided to follow Jesus* – Garo man from a tribe in India who refused to renounce His faith – even with the threat of death of his kids, his wife and then Him, caused a massive conversion to the faith for tribe members.

**4) Steps to resilience: *These are the steps used for natural disasters but are applicable in our faith journey.***

- Explore hazards: What are hazards for followers of Christ? Anything that would lead us not to follow Him completely.
- Assess Vulnerability & Risks: Where are my areas of temptation and the potential consequences to yielding?
- Investigate Options: What do I do when temptations arise?
- Prioritize and Plan: What vulnerable areas have the greatest negative impact if not addressed? Devise a plan to address the most important areas first.
- Take Action: Don't hesitate. Complete the tasks necessary for implementing the plan.