

WHEN LIFE WEARS YOU OUT

MARK 8:12

INTRODUCTION:

1. Sometimes Jesus felt tired from all the people wanting something from Him. So Jesus sought privacy. (Mark 7.24)
2. Burnout is physical and mental collapse because of stress.

I. THE CAUSE OF EXHAUSTION

- A. Burnout is caused by hostility.
 1. **Mark 8.11:** Jesus was confronted.
 2. **Mark 8.14,15:** Jesus was opposed.
 3. **Mark 8.16-21:** Jesus was troubled by a discussion between His apostles.
 4. **Mark 8.31:** Jesus is weighed down by His approaching mistreatment and crucifixion.
 5. **Mark 8.32,33:** Jesus is corrected by Peter concerning His arrest and crucifixion.
- B. How did Jesus feel from the hostility he encountered?
 1. **Mark 8.12,13:** He maintained His integrity.
 2. **Mark 8.27,29,33:** He displayed His humanity.

II. THE CURE FOR EXHAUSTION

- A. Jesus kept Himself focused by remembering His identity.
 1. **MARK 8.29:** *Peter answered and said to Him, "You are the Christ."* (cf. Matt. 16.17,18)
 2. To help us overcome exhaustion caused by hostility, we need to remember our identity. (1 John 3.1; 2 Tim. 3.12)
- B. Jesus kept Himself focused by remembering His purpose.
 1. **MARK 8.31:** *"the Son of Man must suffer many things... and be killed, and after three days rise again."*
 2. Jesus knew why He was born. (John 18.37)
 3. To help us overcome exhaustion caused by hostility, we need to remember why we are here. (1 Cor. 6.20)
 4. **1 PETER 4.16:** *"If anyone suffers as a Christian..."*

CONCLUSION: Staying focused will help keep your path straight.

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

MARCH 29, 2026

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"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"
-Mark 16.15

March 29, 2026

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

When God is Impossible to Please

Do you know anyone who is impossible to please? It seems like no matter what you do, they always have something critical to say. Did you know that there are times when God is impossible to please? In Hebrews 11.6, we are told that *"without faith it is impossible to please Him."* No matter what you do, no matter how hard you try, you will never please God if you do not have faith. Why? If you look at the rest of the verse, there are two reasons that are given.

First, to please God, we must believe that is always present. The verse continues, *"for he who comes to God must believe that He is."* This is not saying that those who want to please God must believe that God exists. The word "is" refers not to His existence, but to His presence. It is in the form of an ongoing action. He is always present. God is the One who is always there. In the context of Hebrews, the brethren are being told that if you want to please God, you must believe that God is always there (cf. Heb. 13.5).

Second, please God, we must believe that He is a rewarder. The verse continues, *"and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."* Faith is much more than just acknowledging His presence. It is also believing that He a rewarder, literally, a wage giver. And knowing that moves us to *"diligently seek Him."* To seek Him involves seeking His will for our lives (Eph. 5.17).

According to this verse, faith involves trusting His constant presence and the action of seeking Him out (Prov. 8.17). It is only then that we will truly be pleasing to God. CLP

JESUS IS OUR REASON TO REJOICE

ACTS 8:39

INTRODUCTION:

1. Studying Acts through the eyes of the apostles gives us insight into the character of Jesus and what He meant to them.
2. In Acts 8, Philip is preaching Jesus in the region of Samaria.
 - a) **Acts 8.1-26:** Philip preached to a city.
 - b) **Acts 8.26-40:** Philip preached to a person. (cf. Luke 15.10)
3. What did Jesus mean to this Ethiopian Eunuch?

I. UNFOLDING THE TEXT

- A. The encounter.
 1. **Acts 8.26-28:** Philip encounters a man of great authority from Ethiopia who was very religious. (cf. Luke 24.44)
 2. **Acts 8.29-33:** He was reading from Isaiah 53.
 3. **Acts 8.34:** *“I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?”*
 4. **Acts 8.35:** *“Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him.”*
- B. The conversion.
 1. **Acts 8:36-38:** What was going through the mind of this Eunuch that led him to being baptized?
 2. **Acts 8.39:** *“he went on his way rejoicing”*

II. WHAT DID JESUS MEAN TO THIS EUNUCH?

- A. Jesus is the redeemer.
 1. **Isaiah 53.10:** *“When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days”*
 2. Jesus is the way to redemption. (cf. Acts 8.36)
- B. Jesus is the justifier.
 1. **Isaiah 53.11:** *“My righteous Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities.”*
 2. Jesus is the way to being made right. (cf. Acts 3.14)
- C. Jesus is the intercessor.
 1. **Isaiah 53.12:** *“And He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”*
 2. Jesus is our intercessor. (cf. Heb. 7.25; 9.24)

CONCLUSION: What does Jesus mean to your life? (Acts 8.40).

Sympathy Through Experience

The Bible concept of sympathy is not the same as our modern day use of the word. In the Bible, the word translated as “sympathy” is a compound word that means “to suffer together.” It carries the idea of knowing what it feels like to suffer because of a shared experience. In our vernacular, we would use the word “empathy.” Three times in the New Testament, we read about Jesus becoming human to learn firsthand what it feels like to suffer, so He can be sympathetic to our suffering.

In Hebrews 2, Jesus is set before us as One who was made human. He was *“made a little lower than the angels”* (Heb. 2.9). He has *“partaken of flesh and blood”* (Heb. 2.14). Why? Verse 17 gives us the reason: *“that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest”* (Heb. 2.17). In a context where Jewish Christians were suffering severely (Heb. 10.32-34), the Holy Spirit tells these brethren that Jesus understands them. It is much more than an intellectual acknowledgement. Jesus is able to show mercy toward us, because He understands first hand what it means to suffer.

In Hebrews 4, the brethren are encouraged to *“hold fast”* (Heb. 4.14), a common theme throughout the book. In essence, they are being told not to give up, to hang in here. In the very next verse, these brethren are given the reason why: *“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”* (Heb. 4.15). The word translated as “sympathize” is the word referenced at the beginning. The NIV correctly translates this word as “empathize.” If you are struggling with temptation, Jesus knows what that feels like. If you are hurting because you lost someone, Jesus knows what that feels like. If you feel like the whole world is against you, Jesus deeply feels it together with you. Jesus came and experienced what it was like to be tempted in all points, so that He can understand first hand what you are going through.

In Hebrews 5, the Holy Spirit tells us about one of the hardest nights in the life of Jesus. The night when He was in Gethsemane, He prayed three times asking God to remove His pending crucifixion. This thought begins in verse 7 where it refers to *“the days of His flesh.”* This happened when Jesus was human. Verse 8 refers to His *“vehement cries and tears.”* Then verse 8 says, *“though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.”* Jesus learned what it felt like to not want to do what God told Him to do, and then do it anyway.

There are times when we suffer hardships, experience temptations that are difficult to resist, and are commanded to do things we do not want to do. But we can take courage knowing that Jesus became human to experience the same. Jesus doesn't just sympathize. He empathizes. No one understands what you go through better than Jesus! CLP