



## Session 4: Jesus Was Constantly Disappearing

September 30, 2019 • Rev. Doug Gray  
First Church of Squantum

Bible Study Based on  
Leonard Sweet's *The Bad Habits of Jesus: Showing Us  
How to Live Right in a World Gone Wrong*

### I. Introductions and Prayer

- A. Leonard Sweet writes: "Would Jesus offend you today? If not, you are missing the scandalous nature of Jesus, the rabble-rousing rabbi, as told in the stories of the Gospels. Jesus revealed a God who has gone to great trouble over every person in every corner of the world. No one is not worth God's trouble. That is why Jesus came to trouble us with the truth: that it is only in being "bad" in the eyes of the world that we can be "good" in the eyes of God." (p. xvi)
- B. Leonard Sweet writes: "When you're a child, you allow your parents to hold your hands so you can learn to walk...until one day, you find you've done it all by yourself. The hands are gone. But their love and watchful eyes, the remembrance of their hands, are still very much there. Learning to live in faith, learning to trust Jesus, is like that too. Once you've known him, seen him, touched him, your faith will take over, even when the training wheels are gone." (p. 45)

### II. Father~Child Bonding Time (Psalm 5:1–12)

- A. For each of the first two stanzas, what's got David praying?
- B. How does the tone shift in the third stanza?
- C. What's the difference between the "rebels" in vss. 9–10 and the "refugees" in vss. 11–12?
- D. What does the word, "righteous," mean? Does it mean perfect?

### III. Jesus Constantly Disappearing (Matthew 14:16–33)

- A. Read the passage. What are some things you notice? Are you surprised by Jesus' response to the disciples in the first section, or Peter in the second?
- B. Jesus "disappears" many times in the Gospels, whether He leaves to be alone with God, or He falls asleep when things get crazy.
- C. Why do you think Jesus disappears all the time?

### IV. Conclusions: Prayer Is Learning God by Heart!

Leonard Sweet writes: "Prayer is relational improv. It's knowing Jesus enough to let our faith create our lives anew each and every time we pray...Prayer is less about the words we say than the time we spend in relationship with God." (p. 51)

## When Jesus disappears...

Occasion	Reason	Reappears	Passage
As a pre-teen	Talking about God	Found in the Temple	Luke 2:41ff
After baptism and before ministry	To prepare for ministry, confront Satan	With a message, Calls first disciples	Matthew 4
After day of healing	Prayer	To move on	Mark 1:35–39
Before naming disciples	To pray	Chooses the Twelve	Luke 6:12ff
After feeding 5000	To pray	Walks on water	Matthew 14:16ff
Transfiguration	To pray with Peter, James and John	Cast out a demon disciples couldn't	Luke 9:28ff
Before His arrest	To pray with Peter, James and John	Arrested	Luke 22:39ff
After He breaks bread on Road to Emmaus	He's recognized	To bless all the disciples	Luke 24:13ff
After He appears to Mary Magdalene	Has not returned to the Father	To bless the disciples	John 20:10ff
After talking with disciples	?	To meet with Thomas	John 20:19–51
After talking with Thomas and the disciples	?	To have breakfast with the disciples and reinstate Peter	John 21

## Psalm 5

**Psa. 5:1** Give ear to my words, O LORD,  
consider my sighing.

**2** Listen to my cry for help,  
my King and my God,  
for to you I pray.

**3** In the morning, O LORD, you hear my voice;  
in the morning I lay my requests before you  
and wait in expectation.

**Psa. 5:4** You are not a God who takes pleasure in evil;  
with you the wicked cannot dwell.

**5** The arrogant cannot stand in your presence;  
you hate all who do wrong.

**6** You destroy those who tell lies;  
bloodthirsty and deceitful men  
the LORD abhors.

**Psa. 5:7** But I, by your great mercy,  
will come into your house;  
in reverence will I bow down  
toward your holy temple.

**8** Lead me, O LORD, in your righteousness  
because of my enemies —  
make straight your way before me.

**Psa. 5:9** Not a word from their mouth can be trusted;  
their heart is filled with destruction.  
Their throat is an open grave;  
with their tongue they speak deceit.

**10** Declare them guilty, O God!  
Let their intrigues be their downfall.  
Banish them for their many sins,  
for they have rebelled against you.

**Psa. 5:11** But let all who take refuge in you be glad;  
let them ever sing for joy.  
Spread your protection over them,  
that those who love your name may rejoice in you.

**12** For surely, O LORD, you bless the righteous;  
you surround them with your favor as with a shield.

## Matthew 14:16–33

**Matt. 14:16** ¶ Jesus replied, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.”

**Matt. 14:17** ¶ “We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish,” they answered.

**Matt. 14:18** ¶ “Bring them here to me,” he said.

**Matt. 14:19** And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people.

**Matt. 14:20** They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.

**Matt. 14:21** The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

**Matt. 14:22** ¶ Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd.

**Matt. 14:23** After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,

**Matt. 14:24** but the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

**Matt. 14:25** ¶ During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake.

**Matt. 14:26** When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear.

**Matt. 14:27** ¶ But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”

**Matt. 14:28** ¶ “Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.”

**Matt. 14:29** ¶ “Come,” he said. ¶ Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

**Matt. 14:30** But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!”

**Matt. 14:31** ¶ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?”

**Matt. 14:32** ¶ And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down.

**Matt. 14:33** Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”