

Jesus On Purpose: The Path Of A Resurrected Heart

PART 20 — “Can Your Heart Survive His Power?”

The Resurrected Heart Under Pressure

Matthew 14–15

Prelude:

Jesus has spent His ministry teaching surrender, humility, trust, obedience, and death to self. Now the disciples are beginning to experience extraordinary power. But Jesus refuses to let **the power become the point**.

The question is no longer simply:

Can you believe Jesus can do incredible things?

The deeper question is:

Can your heart experience incredible things without losing the surrendered posture that made you useful to Him in the first place?

- Can you see miracles without chasing miracles?
- Can you carry power without becoming proud?
- Can you experience scarcity without losing trust?
- Can you suffer without believing God abandoned you?
- Can you be corrected without becoming offended?
- Can you lose your life while still believing resurrection is coming?

This is the Resurrected Heart Jesus is building.

I. CAN YOU SUFFER WITHOUT BELIEVING GOD ABANDONED YOU?

Matthew 14:1–14 — John Dies; Jesus Grieves

Matthew begins this section with something devastating. John the Baptist is faithful—and John dies.

“He sent and had John beheaded in the prison.” Mt. 14:10

John had already declared:

“He must increase, but I must decrease.” Jn 3:30

And John decreased all the way to death. This destroys one of the human heart's favorite equations:

Obedience = God will keep bad things from happening to me.

Jesus never promised that. In fact, He warns us:

“Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul.” Mt. 10:28

THE HUMAN HEART: **“If God really loved me, He wouldn't allow this.”**

THE RESURRECTED HEART: **“I may not understand what God has allowed, but death does not get the final word.”**

And Jesus' response was:

“When Jesus heard about John, He withdrew from there in a boat to a secluded place by Himself.” Mt 14:13

Jesus grieved.

But when He sees the crowds:

"He felt compassion for them and healed their sick." Mt 14:14

His pain did not destroy His compassion. That's the Resurrected Heart He is seeking from us.

- **I can hurt without allowing hurt to own me.**
- **I can grieve without becoming bitter.**
- **I can suffer without concluding that God has abandoned me.**

**** (This is important: resurrection faith is not pretending suffering doesn't hurt. Jesus withdrew. He grieved. The difference is that His pain never became the lord of His heart. He remained surrendered to the Father and compassionate toward people.)*

II. CAN YOU EXPERIENCE SCARCITY WITHOUT LOSING TRUST?

Matthew 14:15-21 — Feeding the Five Thousand

His popularity starts to attract thousands and in one instance they are hungry.

The disciples immediately calculate:

"Send the crowds away..." Matthew 14:15

Jesus says:

"They do not need to go away; you give them something to eat!" Matthew 14:16

Their answer reveals the human heart:

"We have here ONLY five loaves and two fish." Matthew 14:17

ONLY.

- I only have this much money.
- I only have this much ability.
- I only have this much strength.
- I only have this much faith.

Jesus doesn't ask them to manufacture what they don't possess.

He says: ***"Bring them here to Me." Matthew 14:18***

Jesus was teaching them not to look at what you have and determine what is possible.

But to put what you have into Jesus' hands and lets Him determine what is possible.

They begin with **not enough.**

They finish with: ***"Twelve full baskets." Matthew 14:20***

Surrendered insufficiency becomes the place where Christ reveals His sufficiency.

**** (Notice how perfectly this fits the formation Jesus has already been teaching. The answer to insufficiency isn't greater self-confidence. It's greater surrender. Jesus doesn't teach them, "Believe in yourselves." He teaches them, essentially, "Bring what you have to Me.")*

III. CAN YOUR HEART SURVIVE THE MIRACLE?

Matthew 14:22-23

This could be the whole point to what Jesus is teaching us.

Jesus has just performed an extraordinary miracle. Thousands have eaten. The people are amazed.

John tells us they wanted to make Him king:

"They were intending to come and take Him by force to make Him king." John 6:15

This is the moment the human heart wants to capitalize on.

Build the platform. Grow the crowd. Use the momentum. Do another miracle. *(sounds like the modern church playbook)*

Instead:

“Immediately He made the disciples get into the boat...” Matthew 14:22

Jesus sends everybody away.

He then: ***“He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray.” Matthew 14:23***

MIRACLE → WITHDRAWAL → PRAYER.

This is the pattern I think we have been seeing throughout this entire series.

Jesus demonstrates incredible power...and then immediately protects the heart from becoming fascinated with the power.

- Because miracles are not the destination. **Jesus is.**
- Gifts are not the destination. **Jesus is.**
- Ministry success is not the destination. **Jesus is.**

THE HUMAN HEART: **“Look what God did through me.”**

THE RESURRECTED HEART: **“Father, after everything You just did through me, I still desperately need You.”**

This connects directly to everything we have been building:

Love → Obedience → Humility/Surrender → Grace → Gifts

The danger comes when we reverse the order and make **gifts** the evidence of maturity.

Jesus shows us something different. The greater the power, the deeper the dependence.

IV. CAN YOU TRUST HIM WHEN OBEDIENCE LEADS INTO A STORM?

Matthew 14:22–33

Jesus: ***“Made the disciples get into the boat.” Matthew 14:22***

Then: ***“The boat... was battered by the waves; for the wind was contrary.” Matthew 14:24***

They obeyed Jesus...and sailed directly into difficulty.

That matters so much.

We sometimes interpret difficulty as evidence that we missed God. But sometimes: Obedience puts you in the storm.

Then Jesus approaches them—and they don't recognize Him.

“It is a ghost!” Matthew 14:26

We can easily say that fear distorted their perception so badly that **the One coming to them looked like something threatening them.**

That's the warning. **Fear can make God's presence look like God's absence.**

- Fear can make surrender look dangerous.
- Fear can make obedience look foolish.
- Fear can make God's path look unreasonable.

But Jesus says:

“Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.” Matthew 14:27

Notice what He gives them **before** changing their circumstances:

Himself.

Jesus' message here is that The Resurrected Heart learns:

- **I don't need Jesus to explain everything before I trust Him.**
- **I don't need Jesus to calm everything before I trust Him.**
- **I just need to know that Jesus is here.**

And ultimately the miracle ends where every miracle should:

“Those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, ‘You are certainly God's Son!’” Matthew 14:33

The miracle did its job when they stopped looking at the miracle and worshiped Jesus.

V. CAN YOU BE CORRECTED WITHOUT BECOMING OFFENDED?

Matthew 15:1-28

Matthew now does something fascinating. He moves from extraordinary supernatural power directly to **the condition of the heart**.

The Pharisees confront Jesus over tradition.

Jesus says: ***"This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far away from Me."** Matthew 15:8*

There is the problem.

They looked right. They sounded right. They knew Scripture. They practiced religion. But their hearts were far from God.

Jesus then explains: ***"Out of the heart come evil thoughts..."** Matthew 15:19*

The problem isn't merely **out there**. The fallen world isn't humanity's only problem.

Satan isn't humanity's only problem. My heart is part of the problem.

And when Jesus exposes it:

***"Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this statement?"** Matthew 15:12*

That's the human heart. It follows this pattern: **Correction → offense → resistance**.

So Matthew then gives us a beautiful contrast: **the Canaanite woman**.

She comes pleading: ***"Lord, help me!"** Matthew 15:25*

She is challenged. She could become offended.

Instead: ***"Yes, Lord..."** Matthew 15:27*

And Jesus responds: ***"O woman, your faith is great."** Matthew 15:28*

Look at the contrast:

Pharisees: Knowledge + pride → offense.

Canaanite woman: Need + humility → faith.

The Resurrected Heart can be challenged without immediately defending itself.

It can say: **"Yes, Lord."**

Because surrender is more important than protecting my ego.

***Jesus doesn't only call us to humble ourselves before Him. **He calls us to humble ourselves before one another.**

And scientifically, one piece of metal doesn't necessarily have to be stronger than the other for sharpening to happen. **Both can be affected by the friction.**

That's where pride gets exposed.

It's hard enough to submit to someone else. But it's even harder when **you believe you're the stronger person and God still expects you to walk away sharpened.**

Can the teacher learn from the student?

Can the leader learn from the person they lead?

Can the pastor learn from the congregation?

Can I be sharpened by someone I think I know more than?

Iron sharpening iron isn't about figuring out which piece is stronger.

It's having enough humility to recognize:

"God can use this person to put an edge on me too." ***

VI. CAN YOU REMEMBER YESTERDAY'S FAITHFULNESS IN TODAY'S CRISIS?

Matthew 15:29–39 — Feeding the Four Thousand

And then Matthew almost seems to repeat himself.

- Another crowd.
- Another wilderness.
- Another food shortage.

And the disciples ask:

"Where would we get so many loaves in this desolate place to satisfy such a large crowd?" Matthew 15:33

Did they forget the five thousand already?! Would you? **Yes.**

Because that's us.

We experience God's faithfulness yesterday... and panic again today.

That is why the Resurrected Heart isn't created through:

- one sermon,
- one altar call,
- one miracle,
- one act of surrender,
- or one spiritual experience.

Paul says: ***"I die daily." 1 Corinthians 15:31***

The Resurrected Heart is formed through repeated surrender.

Yesterday I trusted. **Today I trust again.**

Yesterday I surrendered. **Today I surrender again.**

Yesterday He provided. **Today I remember.**

Yesterday I died to myself. Today I die again.

*** (Maybe this explains why Jesus keeps allowing the disciples to encounter situations that look strangely similar. Formation requires repetition. Eventually trust must become more than something they occasionally exercise—it must become the natural posture of their hearts.)*

In Closing

So after everything Jesus has taught...

after the miracles...after the healings...after the authority...after the crowds...after the storms...after the rejection...

Jesus is forming a heart capable of carrying all of it **without losing Him.**

???CAN YOUR HEART SURVIVE HIS POWER???

- Can I see miracles **without chasing miracles?**
- Can I carry power **without becoming proud?**
- Can I experience scarcity **without losing trust?**
- Can I suffer **without believing God abandoned me?**
- Can Jesus correct me **without me becoming offended?**

Can I lose everything...and still believe resurrection is coming?

Because eventually the disciples are going to face something far greater than an empty stomach or a storm.

They're going to watch Jesus die. And eventually many of them will face death themselves.

Everything Jesus is doing is preparing their hearts for that moment.

He is teaching them:

“Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.” Matthew 10:39

??So why wouldn't we think Jesus is doing the same for us, right now in this very moment??

- The Resurrected Heart can surrender because **it believes death isn't the end.**
- It can suffer because **it believes death isn't the end.**
- It can remain humble because **this world isn't its reward.**
- It can give away power because **power isn't its identity.**
- It can release control because **it knows Who controls the end.**

The Resurrected Heart does not need to control the outcome because it **trusts** the One who has already conquered the end.

And maybe that is what Jesus has been teaching them all along:

- **Don't fall in love with My miracles.**
- **Don't fall in love with My gifts.**
- **Don't fall in love with what I can give you.**

Fall in love with Me.

Because eventually everything else can be taken away.

And when it is...

will Jesus still be enough?