

One at a Time - Part 6

The Power of AND

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Part of One at a Time Church-Wide Series 2024

February 25, 2024



The book and series title, “One At A Time,” could point to a lot of things, but the subtitle really nails the message down: “the unexpected way God wants to use you to change the world.”

Going through this series, are we watching for situations where God could have us zooming in on one at a time.

Satan likes to tempt us and use guilt on us that we should either do *nothing* at all, or we should be able and try to do *everything*.

We can't do it all, even when guilt pulls us to try, because we weren't created by God to be a god - we were created to be human, with inherent gifts and weaknesses.

At the same time, we weren't created to do nothing, to stand by and watch the world go by and just abdicate complete responsibility for our fellow man and woman.

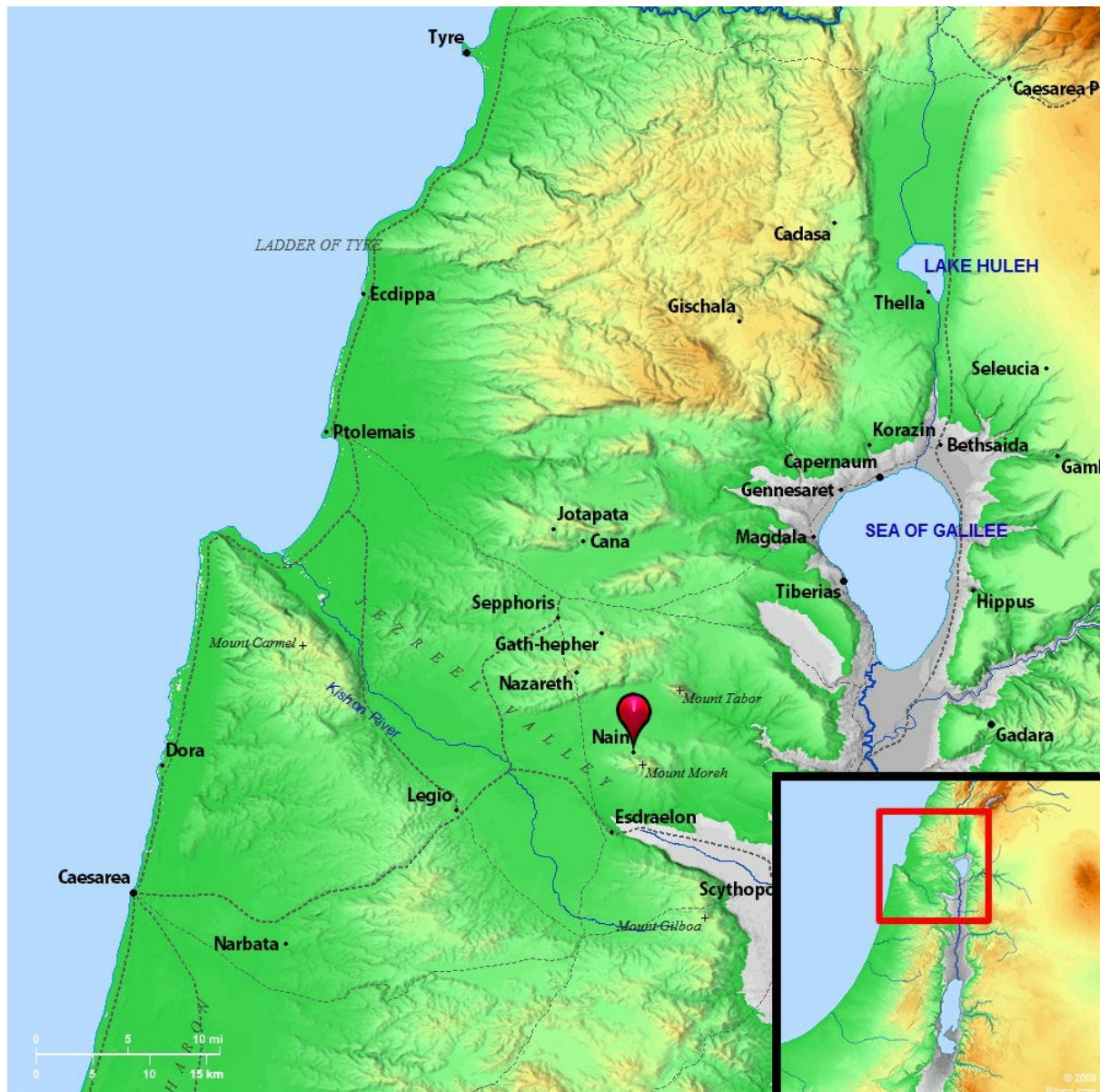
God does seem to reveal things that He has worked in us and prepared us to do, things that we're in the right place

at the right time to help with, and each time that happens, we sense joy for fulfilling our purpose here in this life.

There's a balancing act in all this of discerning between doing it *all*, doing nothing, and doing *something*, the something God has prepared us and called us to do.

... [Jesus] went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him.

—Luke 7:11 (ESV)



As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her.

—Luke 7:12 (ESV)

The body would have been carried on a stretcher or litter, covered in cloth, out to wherever the body would be buried or entombed.

Luke tells us two significant pieces of additional information - this man was the “only son of his mother, and she was a widow.”

Because the woman is already a “widow,” that means her son had been providing the vast majority of income she and her household had; and now, her “only son” has died, cutting off *that* income.

Children, and especially boys, were the social security of biblical times in many cultures, including the Jews.

Anyone seeing this situation would have immediately felt sympathy, recognizing the great tragedy this woman was experiencing.

*And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her...
—Luke 7:13ab (ESV)*

Jesus felt *more* than sympathy - he felt “compassion.”

When we feel compassion, the feeling we have is because of *someone else*; our hearts go out to that person or situation.

*And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep.”
—Luke 7:13 (ESV)*

*13And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep.” 14Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, “Young man, I say to you, arise.”
—Luke 7:13-14 (ESV)*

Notice that Jesus uses two more “ands,” for a total of three in this passage.

And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother.

—Luke 7:15 (ESV)

Compassion sees something unfortunate or troubling happen to another, and rather than just feeling one's own sympathy, compassion feels for that person *and acts* in some way that has the potential to help that person.

The test of compassion is action.

—Kyle Idleman

This study is revolutionary because it gives us a way to change the world, one person at a time, as God wants us to do, while not giving in to being overwhelmed, nor, at the same time, trying to do everything out of guilt or a god complex.

Next Week: Romans 8:1-11

SUMMARY OF THE “ONE AT A TIME” PROCESS

Based on the book, *One At A Time*, by Kyle Idleman

Session 1: ZOOM LENS

Big Idea: Jesus focused on people one at a time.

Prayer: Jesus, give me Your eyes for the one and help me to see people the way You see people. Amen.

Session 2: IN, THEN THROUGH

Big Idea: Jesus knew the value of God work in Him before the work could happen through Him.

Prayer: God, do something in me so You can do something through me. Amen.

Session 3: PROXIMITY PRINCIPLE

Big Idea: Jesus put Himself in proximity with people in messy situations.

Prayer: God, place broken-hearted people in my path and fill me with

You so I can let Your love heal their pain. Amen.

Session 4: INTERSECTIONS

Big Idea: Jesus met people at the intersection of their life's moments, forever changing the direction of their lives.

Prayer: Jesus, give me Your eyes to see the intersections where I can introduce Your hope and healing at just the right time. Give me Your Spirit of courage and not fear when those moments come. Amen.

Session 5: EXTRA-MILE MENTALITY

Big Idea: Jesus used the power of an extra-mile mentality to gain the attention of someone who might otherwise ignore Him.

Prayer: Jesus, remove my pride when the moment hits, so I can go the extra mile when it counts. May I be the salt of the earth in the little moments with the people who need it the most. Amen.

Session 6: THE POWER OF AND

Big Idea: Jesus lived out compassion by always having an action that succeeds the emotion.

Prayer: Jesus, may we show others a complete view of compassion where we see, feel, and act because of Your compassion toward us first. Amen.

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 - Find the book online: *One At A Time: The Unexpected Way God Wants to Use You to Change the World*, by Kyle Idleman ([Amazon](#), [Mardel](#), [Barnes & Noble](#))