

Dangers: Jesus Had Problems, and More Than We Knew

Luke 4:16-30

Beginners: “Now that I know Jesus’ story, am I... *done*?”

What was it like to be Jesus, frequently in danger? Some dangers/risks:

(1) Premature Death. For instance, they intended to throw him off a cliff. (Luke 4:29)

- a. Premature? There’s a timetable to Jesus’ death (John 7:30). Before then, Jesus says he has come to preach, heal, train... (Mk 1:38; Luke 4:43, 13:32)

(2) People hijacking his ministry. Crowds forcing him to be king (John 6:15). Peter rebuking Jesus for His mission to die (Matt 16:22).

(3) Abandonment – because Jesus sounds crazy. “You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve. (John 6:67)

(4) Mobbing. Because he’s a rock star, a victim of his own success. Can’t teach when he’s mobbed.

So sometimes Jesus withdraws, or gets in a boat, or...

- Note how he doesn’t respond: Jesus doesn’t strike his enemies with blindness! Contrast with Elisha in 2 Kings 6. Jesus doesn’t use his miraculous powers to get out of a jam.

The Christology ladder: What truth is ‘safe’ for Jesus to say?

- Jesus. A man very, very alone. No one understands him, and everyone is dangerous. (John 2:23-25)

Skeptics: If a book of history is written late, like the Gospel of John, why would I think it’s helpful and accurate?

Time-release teachings. Many of Jesus’ teachings become clearer later, keeping his enemies a bit off balance and giving his disciples insights and truths first.

Strugglers: Jesus knows what it’s like to be very alone.

- How did he handle it?

Questions for further reflection and application

1. Read John 2:13-25. How does this passage exhibit some of the main points from the message today? Consider 2:13-22 first, and then reflect on the last verses, John 2:23-25.
2. How did Jesus handle his alone-ness? What can you remember from Scripture that he specifically did? (his actions)
3. Or what did Jesus believe that shaped and helped his experience of being alone? (his beliefs)
4. What from this can we apply to our own lives? What kind of emotional change should we expect?