

## Sermon Notes

### How to Keep Your Head (When Everyone is Losing Theirs)

(John 11:45-57)

*[45] Therefore many of the Jews who came to Mary, and saw what He had done, believed in Him.*

*[46] But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them the things which Jesus had done.*

*[47] Therefore the chief priests and the Pharisees convened a council, and were saying, "What are we doing? For this man is performing many signs. [48] If we let Him go on like this, all men will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation." [49] But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all, [50] nor do you take into account that it is expedient for you that one man die for the people, and that the whole nation not perish."*

*[51] Now he did not say this on his own initiative, but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation, [52] and not for the nation only, but in order that He might also gather together into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. [53] So from that day on they planned together to kill Him.*

*[54] Therefore Jesus no longer continued to walk publicly among the Jews, but went away from there to the country near the wilderness, into a city called Ephraim; and there He stayed with the disciples. [5] Now the Passover of the Jews was near, and many went up to Jerusalem out of the country before the Passover to purify themselves. [56] So they were seeking for Jesus, and were saying to one another as they stood in the temple, "What do you think; that He will not come to the feast at all?" [57] Now the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that if anyone knew where He was, he was to report it, so that they might seize Him.*

#### What does this passage teach me about staying calm when nobody else is?

##### 1. To stay calm, I must remember that God controls the details.

*Daniel 4:17 "...that the living may know that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind, and bestows it on whom He wishes and sets over it the lowliest of men."*

*Romans 13:1 "Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God."*

*Prov. 16:4 The LORD has made everything for its own purpose, even the wicked for the day of evil.*

*Prov 16:33 "The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD."*

*Matt 10:29-31 "Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows."*

*Rom 8:28 "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to {His} purpose."*

##### 2. To stay calm, I must remember how important patience is to God.

Romans 5:3-5 *“And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”*

James 1:2-4 *“Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. (perseverance, patience). And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”*

1 Peter 5:6 *“Humble yourselves therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time.”*

## **If**

If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs and blaming it on you,  
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you, but make allowance for their doubting too;  
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting, or being lied about, don't deal in lies,  
Or being hated, don't give way to hating, and yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:  
If you can dream—and not make dreams your master; if you can think—and not make thoughts your aim;  
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster and treat those two impostors just the same;  
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,  
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken, and stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:  
If you can make one heap of all your winnings and risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,  
And lose, and start again at your beginnings and never breathe a word about your loss;  
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew to serve your turn long after they are gone,  
And so hold on when there is nothing in you except the Will which says to them: 'Hold on!'  
If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue, or walk with Kings—nor lose the common touch,  
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you, if all men count with you, but none too much;  
If you can fill the unforgiving minute with sixty seconds' worth of distance run,  
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it, and—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!  
- Rudyard Kipling

## **For Further Thought and Discussion**

### **Getting Started**

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?
2. In what situations do you typically lose your calm? Why?

### **Going Deeper**

3. Please read John 11:45-57. What were the results of Jesus' delay when Lazarus became ill (a) for Lazarus' family and friends, (b) for Jesus' enemies? What does this passage reveal to you about God? About people?
4. Why does remaining calm in crisis depend upon what we believe about God?

5. Why is the development of patience in Christ's followers so important to God? How have hard times produced good things for you? Which line of Kipling's poem is most meaningful for you?

**Application**

What is one thing you can do this week to apply this passage?