

Choose Your Own Adventure

A

DANGEROUS

LOVE



Recap

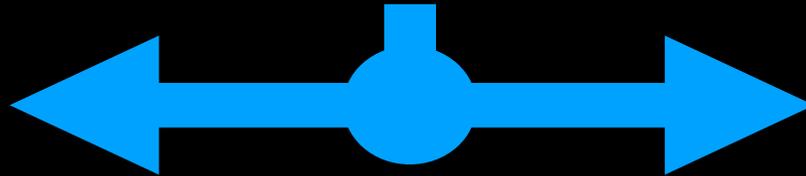
Crisis can show us that our existing coping mechanisms are **not adequate** to deal with the **new** stressors

Elihu had waited for the others to speak to Job because they were **older** than he. But when he saw that they had no further reply, he spoke out **angrily**. 32:4-5

Recap

Pain/Suffering

Why me?



Why not me?

Underlying Presumptions

- this is not fair
- I don't deserve this
- I haven't caused this
- God is inflicting this therefore God doesn't love me

Underlying Presumptions

- I exist in a fallen world
- I did not cause this but I am also not sinless
- God exists in mystery
- God loves me and therefore walks with me through this

Recap

For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet **they produce** for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! **2 Corinthians 4:17**

How do you respond when you know
the **destruction** of our your is coming?

“Crises bring out some of your brain's **worst**
tendencies.” **Thomas H. Davenport, MIT**

The world is not going to end soon, Ashley Tang

We're hardwired to live and we'll do anything to survive if we believe that we are threatened. Fearing the end and anticipating how it might end will determine **how we prepare for it.**

“Some pray, some give up, some go to extreme measures...”

Paul Jambunathan Clinical Psychologist

Who We Are, Or Could Be, in Times of Crisis, Facing History and Ourselves

During natural disasters—like hurricanes, floods, and earthquakes—**people have to make choices quickly**. Historian and activist Rebecca Solnit writes about what such moments of **crisis reveal about human behaviour**.

Who We Are, Or Could Be, in Times of Crisis, Facing History and Ourselves

Who are you? Who are we? **In times of crisis, these are life and death questions.** Thousands of people survived Hurricane Katrina because grandsons or aunts or neighbours or complete strangers reached out to those in need all through the Gulf Coast, and because an armada of boat owners from the surrounding communities and as far away as Texas went into New Orleans to pull stranded people to safety . . . Katrina was an extreme version of what goes on in many disasters, **where how you behave depends on whether you think your neighbours or fellow citizens are a greater threat than the havoc wrought by a disaster or a greater good than the property in houses and stores around you.**

emotions present
values pleasure
comfort **decision** gain
past future
beliefs

How we make decisions **changes**
based on our stress levels

Rahab had a front row seat
to the **end** of her world

Background

It's hard for those of us raised in cultures shaped by biblical monotheism to appreciate how radical the idea of one omnipotent and sovereign God was to the ancient mind. What's more, this God was not only invisible, He absolutely forbade any representation of Himself. Part of the reason why lies in the way Canaanites and other pagan religions used representations as a way to manipulate their gods into doing what they wanted. Eric Metaxas

Background

At times of crisis, Baal's followers sacrificed their children, apparently the firstborn of the community, to gain personal prosperity.

The Canaanite religions all believed that their gods could be *manipulated* by their religious practices. Unfortunately this manipulation was usually at the cost of the most vulnerable of society (women and children)

Background

“There stands in their midst a bronze statue of Kronos (**Baal**), its hands extended over a bronze brazier, the flames of which engulf the **child**. When the flames fall upon the body, the limbs contract and the open mouth seems almost to be laughing until the contracted body slips quietly into the brazier. Thus it is that the ‘grin’ is known as ‘sardonic laughter,’ since they die laughing.” **Cleitarchus, 4th century B.C.E**

Then Joshua secretly sent out two spies from the Israelite camp at Acacia Grove. He instructed them, “Scout out the land on the other side of the Jordan River, especially around Jericho.” So the two men set out and **came to the house of a prostitute named Rahab** and stayed there that night. **Joshua 2:1-2**

The Lord now said to Moses, “Send out men to explore the land of Canaan, the land I am giving to the Israelites. Send one leader from each of the twelve ancestral tribes.” So Moses did as the Lord commanded him. He sent out **twelve men Numbers 13:1-3a**

But someone told the **king** of Jericho, “Some Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land.” So the king of Jericho sent **orders** to Rahab: “Bring out the men who have come into your house, for they have come here to spy out the whole land.” **vs 2-3**

Rahab had hidden the two men, but she replied, “Yes, the men were here earlier, but I didn’t know where they were from. They left the town at dusk, as the gates were about to close. I don’t know where they went. If you hurry, you can probably catch up with them.” (Actually, she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them beneath bundles of flax she had laid out.) So the king’s men went looking for the spies along the road leading to the shallow crossings of the Jordan River. And as soon as the king’s men had left, the gate of Jericho was shut. vs 4-7

Before the spies went to sleep that night, Rahab went up on the roof to talk with them. “I know the Lord has given you this land,” she told them. “We are all afraid of you. Everyone in the land is living in terror. vs 8-9

For we have heard how the Lord made a dry path for you through the Red Sea when you left Egypt. And we know what you did to Sihon and Og, the two Amorite kings east of the Jordan River, whose people you completely destroyed. No wonder our hearts have melted in fear! No one has the courage to fight after hearing such things. For the Lord your God is the supreme God of the heavens above and the earth below. vs 10-11

“Now swear to me by the Lord that you will be kind to me and my family since I have helped you. Give me some guarantee that when Jericho is conquered, you will let me live, along with my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all their families.” vs 12-13

Before they left, the men told her, “We will be bound by the oath we have taken only if you follow these instructions. When we come into the land, **you must leave this scarlet rope hanging from the window through which you let us down.** And all your family members—your father, mother, brothers, and all your relatives—must be here inside the house” **vs 17-18**



a series of **decisions** becomes a habit, which creates a behaviour. Our behaviours are the building blocks which becomes our life

In crisis Rahab recognized what was truly important and acted accordingly. She chose the Jewish God over her own safety and comfort. She chose the **future** rather than the present, the **eternal** rather than the temporary

“Crises brings out some of your brain's **worst** tendencies.” Thomas H. Davenport, MIT
(**self preservation**)

“servanthood is ultimately the **outcome** of one who, having first **surrendered** [themselves] to God, is able to give [themselves] sacrificially for God and others.” J. Hampton Keathley
(“**one anothering**”)

“The distinction between self-interest and selfishness seems to be so blurred in public discourse that self-interest nearly means selfishness. But this is far from the true definition of self-interest.” TGC

“Selfishness is a sin, but **self-interest is necessary to live out the Christian life**. While the Bible clearly condemns selfishness, self-interest is a good thing—it enables us to become well-functioning, contributing members of God’s community.”

* Self-interest helps us to be able to continue to help others, selfishness will never have an **outward** focus

Legacy

Meanwhile, Joshua said to the two spies, “Keep your promise. Go to the prostitute’s house and bring her out, along with all her family.” The men who had been spies went in and brought out **Rahab, her father, mother, brothers, and all the other relatives who were with her.** They moved her whole family to a safe place near the camp of Israel. [Joshua 6:22-23](#)

Legacy

Salmon was the father of Boaz (**whose mother was Rahab**). Boaz was the father of Obed (whose mother was Ruth). Obed was the father of Jesse. [Matthew 1:5](#)

It was by faith that Rahab the prostitute was not destroyed with the people in her city who refused to obey God. For she had given a friendly welcome to the spies. [Hebrews 11:31](#)

Legacy

So you see, we are shown to be right with God by what we do, not by faith alone. **Rahab the prostitute is another example.** She was shown to be right with God by her actions when she hid those messengers and sent them safely away by a different road. Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works. **James 2:24-26**

“So fear the Lord and serve him wholeheartedly. Put away forever the idols your ancestors worshiped when they lived beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord alone. But if you refuse to serve the Lord, **then choose today whom you will serve.** Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live? But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord.” **Joshua 24:14-15**

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