

Joni Eareckson Tada was 17 years old when she became a paraplegic after diving into a shallow lake. Previously an active teenager, she became paralyzed from the shoulders down. At first she considered suicide and begged her friends to help her do it. She struggled with understanding why God would allow the accident to happen. She was angry and depressed. After many months her “clench fists questions” became inquiries of a searching heart. She sincerely and honestly wanted to find answers.

Today, over forty years later, Joni has complete peace with what God planned for her life. She is a mouth artist and has written several books. She has a radio program and a ministry that blesses other disabled people and their families. She has been married to Ken Tada for almost thirty years and has traveled around the world. She loves God, studies the Bible, and shares the Gospel wherever she speaks.

But she also lives with chronic pain and in 2010 was diagnosed with breast cancer. This was her response: “I am content to receive from God whatever He deems fit for me – even if it is from His left hand (better from His left hand, than no hand at all, right?!). Yes, it’s alarming, but rest assured that Ken and I are utterly convinced that God is going to use this to stretch our faith, brighten our hope, and strengthen our witness to others...”

I am in awe! But I believe her response comes from being “with Jesus.” Dan talked about this in Acts 4:13: “When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.” I love the way Dan explored each part of this verse and challenged: “When people see us, do they know we’ve been with Jesus?” I believe that is the only way to explain the amazing trust Joni has in her Creator and the way she responded to her disease. She had already spent time memorizing Scripture and soaking in the Word, and when crisis hit, she trusted. Paul said it this way: “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:28)

### Questions to consider:

The Greatest Commandment is “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. And love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:37, 39) Do I spend time “with Jesus?” What does it look like?

Is my life marked by boldness for my faith?

Do I oppose hesitancy when it comes to sharing and living out what I profess on Sundays?

I have the Living God inside of me . . . do I believe this?

Would I use the words “boldness”, “conviction” and “powerful” to describe my week?

When people see me this week, do they know I've been with Jesus?

Who do I resemble more, Jesus or the world?

Who am I listening to? Who do I spend time with?

God used "unschooled, ordinary" men to spread the Gospel. Do I believe He can use me too?

***This month's memory verse: "When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus." - Acts 4:13***

***Additional verses: The book of Acts, Romans 8:28***

**Reminders:**

**8/21 – 3<sup>rd</sup>:culture Night! 1Mosaic's "For the City' Summer Carnival. "Church is NOT a building!" So let's turn our new parking lot at the 5/6 building into a rockin' carnival for our city, from 6-8pm. This is our FINAL carnival for the summer, so be sure to sign up to host a station!**

**8/28 – Sunday MORNING Gathering @ SHU...10am!!! \_ That's right...we are going back for ONE WEEK to our old stomping grounds. 1MOSAIC has been asked to run a special service for welcome weekend at SHU...so we are going to ask that we all meet Sunday morning instead of Sunday night. Stay tuned for all the details. It's going to be an awesome service!**