

Lesson 3: Order & Chaos

Order and Chaos. That's the title – pretty simple, huh? Well, kinda. I'll get into that question later, but first, I think that we should define these two words.

Order: This term has its roots in the Greek phenomenon 'Cosmos'. Cosmos was the term used by the ancient Greek philosophers who saw that the world was meaningful. Things happened for a reason. And most of the time it was for structure, purpose & beauty.

You woke up today and had food in your stomach? That's Order.

You had a roof over your head? That's Order.

You had enough money to put gas in your car? That's Order.

When life is going well – with minimal flukes – we feel a sense of ease. That's Order.

Chaos: The term chaos was rooted in the empty void on the flip side of Cosmos. This was a disruption of structure – nonlinear – if you will. In fact, Chaos was historically seen as the archrival of order. Everything we know could change in an instant – that is chaos.

You lost that job that supported your family? That's Chaos.

You lost your purpose in life? That's Chaos.

You found out that you're sick? That's Chaos.

Everything that's not order – my friends – is Chaos.

When life throws us curveballs, we feel distraught. We swing when it's in the dirt (baseball analogy). We don't know how to handle the situations that life throws at us. That's ok. I'm here to be the first to admit that when chaos enters my life, I STRUGGLE to divulge the negative thoughts in my mind. I cry. I mourn. I question. I think WHY ME GOD???? Well, let me tell you something. **The Lord Jesus Christ gives his strongest warriors the toughest battles.** And let me add something: **THE CLOSER WE GET TO GOD, THE MORE SATAN TRIES TO PUT CHAOS INTO OUR LIVES TO PUSH US AWAY FROM ORDER.** Stand strong and don't fall for his hedonistic traps. Let's look at some of the disciples.

Peter: Crucified Upside Down

James: Beheaded

Paul: Beheaded

Thomas: Speared to Death

Matthew: Speared to Death

Other James: Stoned to death

All this for TRUSTING IN THE LORD. Like I said, the Lord gives his greatest battles to his toughest soldiers – and I am beyond proud to be one of his soldiers. You should be, too. He's put this giant boulder in your life, not so you move it by yourself, but so that you can learn to call out to him and push it out of your way together.

Life was never meant to be a linear order. In fact, before we had order in this world, there was Chaos. In fact, in Genesis 1:2-3 it states, *"The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light"*. This world was a dark, lifeless void before God entered it. It was filled with Chaos – lack of purpose, some would say. And then just like that, there was order. Complete chaos was transformed into complete order in a moment. **If God can create order from chaos in the sense of the entire world, why do you question if he can create order in your life?**

Let's talk about Peter in the boat. In Matthew 14, the disciples were out on the water, and the waves began to pick up. Now it is important to understand that the disciples didn't have a warship or a big steel boat like we have nowadays. These were tiny fishing boats that could easily be flipped – sending all aboard to the bottom of the sea. As the storm began to rage on the disciples became terrified. Right as the chaos raged on, Jesus appeared, walking on water. At first, they exclaimed that it was a ghost advancing their way. They thought this because **CHAOS CLOUDS ORDER IF WE ALLOW OURSELVES TO BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO DOUBTFUL THOUGHTS**. Peter then stepped outside the boat and had faith in the order that God brought to him. He walked on top of chaos. **BUT THEN HE TOOK HIS EYES OFF OF JESUS** – and he began to sink. Sound familiar? When life feels overwhelming, when the storm is louder than our faith, we start to go under.

Here is the best part of this story, in my opinion. As soon as Peter cried out to the Lord to be saved, Jesus grabbed his hand and brought him above the water. That is the loving nature that our Lord presents time and time again. In fact, he's so loving that even if we turn our back on him, he still loves us. Even though we struggle with the chaos in our lives, he still has a plan for us. He doesn't tell us that our life is going to be full of order all the time – in fact, he makes it clear that we will face temptations and chaos. But he will always provide a way out. He writes in *1 Corinthians 10:13*, *"No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it"*. That's how loving our God is.

So, here is the truth, my friends: Order and Chaos are going to swing back and forth in your life, no matter the circumstances. One day you'll be standing on solid ground, and the next day the winds and waves will begin to pick up – pushing you further into chaos. In either of these

scenarios, God is there. He is with you. The enemy will use chaos to try and shake your faith, to get you to look at the storm instead of the Savior. But the good news is this — our God has already overcome the world. John 16:33 says, *“In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”*

That’s order in the middle of chaos. That’s peace in the middle of pain. That’s hope in the middle of despair.

Long Live the King, Jesus Christ – the King of all Kings. The Order to our Chaos.

LOVE YOU ALL AND SEE YOU NEXT WEEK! - TY