

Dylan Carnavale:

Welcome to the Why God Why podcast brought to you by Browncroft Community Church. My name is Dylan Carnavale and I am the Browncroft staff and producer of the show. I'm joined today by our host, Peter Englert, the Director of Adult Ministries here at Browncroft and John Iamaio, a New York State Crew Director. Why God is Why is a podcast where we ask 21st century questions about God that you never thought you could. And today, we have Father Eric Ockrin, he's the lead pastor of Trinity Community Church and we're talking about Why God Why, do I get so worried when my life is out of control? Peter and John take it away.

John Iamaio:

Wow. I can't think of a topic that is more applicable to our lives today than this one right here. I think about those two words, worry and control. It seems like everybody is struggling with those two things at some point during the day. All of us are struggling with those two things. So I think this is going to be a really great conversation that we're having today.

Peter Englert:

Have you ever met someone that feels like they're fully in control of their life?

John Iamaio:

I've met people that think they're fully in control.

Peter Englert:

Okay. I think about this question and just how relatable just as you said. And one of the reasons why I wanted to interview my friend Father Eric is here is a guy that works three jobs. Maybe he's down to two, he'll tell us. But I mean, part of that is just the way that God has wired and gifted him. But also I just know some of the things that he's working on is in this area. And so it's funny.

Peter Englert:

CS Lewis talks about friendship and when Eric and I talk, it's like, oh, you too.

John Iamaio:

Yeah.

Peter Englert:

And so I just really love that. So we're going to just throw it over to Eric. And by the way, Eric is an Anglican priest. He'll probably tell you a little bit more about that. But just to get us started. Eric, what are some examples in your life when you feel out of control? And if you've got one from today being interviewed on a podcast, that's okay.

Eric Ockrin:

Well, that's the obvious one. You're right. Yeah. Not really knowing what the what fully to say or expect. But I can appreciate the question because it makes me think about as recently as yesterday, I had a parishioner send me an email saying, hey, I would like us to consider maybe making an announcement in church that anybody who's not feeling well shouldn't come to church anymore. And he said this is

because of the coronavirus. This coming to America. And I immediately, in that moment, just spiraled into this place of, oh my gosh.

Eric Ockrin:

Even his wording, he was feeling just desperate, right? And there's this desperation and his concern and his worry and perhaps there I say, feeling out of control. And I thought, gosh, if we go down that route, if I allow myself to go down that route, it's from a family of six and four kids on any given day in this particular time of year, half of us are not coming to church, right? So definitely, I'm sure everybody is very aware of the coronavirus and feeling desperate and out of control in that regard. I think the other thing that comes to my mind right away and I don't have to go back very far, it's just politics these days. We can all really apprehend how there's just a lot of chaos going on in the political realm.

Eric Ockrin:

And it's disturbing. It's troubling. It doesn't matter where you are on the spectrum but it's a strange time and it's hard to feel grounded in what's happening in our country with politics. But in terms of my life, in an example when I felt out of control, I go back to adolescence and maybe a lot of us do. I was a late bloomer and so because I was a late bloomer that means I went into grade nine as a four foot 11 inch young man weighing, maybe 90 pounds soaking wet. And just really feeling out of control with regard to, man, am I ever going to fit in? Am I ever going to get bigger? Am I ever going to be seen by the ladies? Stuff like that. And so that's something that comes to my mind.

Peter Englert:

I want to go back. Man, what you said was just so rich, John and I we're ready to ask questions but-

John Iamaio:

Yeah. I got three questions in [crosstalk 00:04:50]. So everybody knows.

Peter Englert:

I want to go back to the coronavirus email.

Eric Ockrin:

Sure.

Peter Englert:

I think all four of us here, we've received emails like that. And just tell me what were you feeling before you read that email? What did you feel reading during that email? And then what did you feel after that email?

Eric Ockrin:

I was feeling fine before the email. I was in a pretty good place. I read the email. During the email my heart started to race a little bit and I was like, oh my gosh, the ripple effect of people not coming to church is really significant. Who's going to volunteer in the nursery if they're feeling sick and how's that going impact the families and the kids?

Eric Ockrin:

And on and on and on and on. But afterwards, I just took a deep breath and I said, okay, what's a prudential and caring and kind way to validate the felt concern? But respond appropriately and say, gosh, maybe we can't say something but be a little bit fuller about not necessarily just if you don't feel well but if you're having some of these symptoms. Hopefully nobody's going to come to church if they're running a high fever and nauseous and all those kinds of things.

Peter Englert:

I just think my wife, she's going to love hearing me say this because two years ago and I've only gotten inches better but I would get an email like that. It would put me in a tailspin for the rest of the day because you're out of control. What do you do? And then on top of that, it's like someone is handed you like a TNT bomb and you're like, if I respond to the... It's almost like you're accepting someone else's anxiety.

Peter Englert:

So not only do you feel out of control but you know that they do. I don't know. Man, that was so helpful. So-

John lamaio:

Yeah.

Peter Englert:

Go ahead, John.

John lamaio:

I think of that example, I resonate with that. I also resonate with your example from your adolescence too. I'm not the largest man in the universe. We can easily call this the, I'm waiting for my growth spurt podcasts. That could be it.

Peter Englert:

Ooh, that could preach.

John lamaio:

Yeah. Anyway-

Peter Englert:

All five for me.

John lamaio:

That's right. So that resonated with me. Let's go there. Some of the routes maybe even of some of the ways you're tempted to be anxious or worry. Place in yourself back there in ninth grade. What were you worrying about during those times?

Eric Ockrin:

Yeah. I think the biggest thing for me at that point is it's a lot of comparison with others, with peers and as I'm looking around the classroom and running around in gym, I'm like, man, I'm the smallest guy here. And in terms of a time and phase and place in life when identity is being formed and confidence is being established or not, those were just real battles and wrestlings that I had. I think that was really a basis for, probably some of the foundational things for me in my life where I've worried. Am I going to measure up? Am I going to stay in control if I'm in a situation or a circumstance where I may perceive myself to still be smaller than other people in the room?

John lamaio:

Wow. So good. So let me ask you this question based off of that. What do you wish you could have had someone tell you in your ninth grade self? Just put their arm around you. If you put yourself back in that classroom somewhere and you imagine yourself sitting at the desk and someone comes up to you that you respect and love, just puts their arm around you and could tell you something that you would really listen to is that ninth grade self, what would that be?

Eric Ockrin:

What comes to mind immediately is that I could see somebody coming to me putting their arm around me, as you said and saying there is a longer view of things. There's a longer view of things and that means that you will get taller. You will put on some weight. What time frame that happens in, don't worry so much about those things but believe that there is a longer view of things and you will get to that place.

Eric Ockrin:

Or at least you'll grow some in that space, right? And maybe I always want it to be six foot four like my dad. I didn't ever get there obviously. But I did get much further along than four foot 11. Don't worry so much about this destination or where you want to be or what you want to become. Just believe that you are going to becoming in the longer view of things.

Peter Englert:

When you feel life is really chaotic. And you get really worried. Do you ever find yourself going back to that freshman four foot 11? I mean, how does that play out?

Eric Ockrin:

Yes. Let's be honest. I wish that I have nailed this confidence thing or this reality of maybe getting closer to feeling like I'm at peace and have control. But I know better. I think it's just, again, it's a reminder to say, the end game isn't to be in control of everything. The end game is to trust that there is a process and God is working through things and bringing me someplace to what he's hoping for.

John lamaio:

So maybe we fast forward a little bit to the current day and we talk about you in ninth grade. But how about now? What are the things that you find yourself consumed by the most now and worry?

Eric Ockrin:

Well, there's a few things. I would say right off the top of my head that some of the biggest things that were in me really are financial worries. I have four kids. I went through some transitions about

seven years ago. Moving from practicing as a school Psychologist for 14 years and being in that track of every year, there's an increase in salary, there's fantastic benefits. There's a pension awaiting me when I'm 53 years old and I can retire.

Eric Ockrin:

And then just through circumstances, my life took a course where God began to call and pull me towards ministry. And that meant walking away from some of those securities and a lot of the financial benefits of that. I think even today, I hope that others can probably relate to that too, that we worry about finances. Four kids. It takes a lot to keep up with the Joneses where I live in Webster with regard to soccer and dance and all those things.

Eric Ockrin:

And it's really just an exercise of saying, I don't know. How's it going to happen? And I remember when I did move away from school psychology and left it completely in the earlier years before I took a couple other jobs and just immerse myself in being a pastor, I just said God, you're going to have to do this.

Eric Ockrin:

I'm not getting out of the boat and having to walk on water by myself. I'm going to be getting out of the boat with my four kids and my wife as well. And you got to do it. And I've actually kept a blessings' journal, particularly related to finances. And it's amazing the ways that God has continued to provide for my family. And I may worry a lot about it still but he just comes alongside of me like that person putting his arm around me saying, hey, there's a longer view of things and I'm right here with you.

Peter Englert:

It's interesting as you bring that up. We put a pole in our Why God Why insider's group and we asked people what was the number one thing that they worried about? And they said finances.

Eric Ockrin:

Okay, I'm not alone.

John lamaio:

You're not alone.

Peter Englert:

I think you mentioned it but I wouldn't say I'm mostly worried about finances, so I'm trying to pinpoint, is it the weekly look at your bank account and it's smaller than you thought? Is it like, I'd like to say yes to other things but I know it's like you're trying to put your hands in the water? Or is it... I know that with some people, some of the richest people I know are the most anxious about money because it's like and again, I think there's a lot of people that are in this boat. I'm not saying it's bad but if there's \$500,000 in the account, there could be \$600,000 in the account. So, I mean, just play into us the everyday life of Father Eric trying to get through that.

Eric Ockrin:

Well, sure. I don't know how many people in the audience are familiar with the Enneagram. Hopefully some but I-

John lamaio:

Peter is educating us all.

Peter Englert:

Okay. John, stop it. Yeah. You call people out on [crosstalk 00:14:18].

John lamaio:

That's true. First Peter educated me.

Eric Ockrin:

For those who are skeptical of the Enneagram or wary of it. First, I'm a human being and then who happens to have some of the attributes of a 3, right? So not a 3 and then everything else. And not just a number. But as a 3, my mind it's bent towards my personality, seems bent towards achievement and one of those things is what I might project out in the future as a reasonable and good outcome with regard to where I might want my family to be by whatever timeframe and that plays into it.

Eric Ockrin:

So if I'm looking out into the future in my mid 50s or 60s as an Enneagram 3, I'm like, well, that's what it needs to be. That's the goal. And I've got to get there and I'm going to do everything I can to get there. Air go, adding in a few more jobs on the side since then to say not only to meet the needs of today but also to say, well, that's what I see in the future. And that's where I imagine is a good place to be in the future and I'm going to work very hard to get there.

Peter Englert:

I want to transition a little bit. This is a problem when you're friends with someone that you interview. You go places. You pastor a church that about seven years ago went through a very surprised transition. I'd be curious for you to answer that question that we're asking today based on that experience where, I mean, you went from youth pastor to lead pastor and I think for some of us, Enneagram 3's or achievement, we'd think, oh, that's great. And I think you have a story that just could speak to some of the stuff to the question about anxiety and chaotic times. Can you just tell us a little bit about that?

Eric Ockrin:

Sure. Yeah. Well, in that transition, I mean, it was a pretty sudden move or retirement from the former pastor. In the midst of that transition and me moving into becoming the head pastor, lead pastor or in our faith tradition, the rector of the parish, I began to think about, well, what does it look like? What's a successful church look like? And what part do I play in that? And who am I supposed to be, right?

Eric Ockrin:

I've imagined my leadership and my pastoral formation in this time. Even though I was a youth pastor for eight years, I've almost looked at it as like, okay, there's this sandbox where I have my pastoral formation, my leadership development is all happening in this sandbox and I've invited all these other people into it. They're in it with me and they're experiencing this.

Eric Ockrin:

In many ways it feels as though in that space that the level of sand may increase sometimes and want to almost suffocate me. Am I going to keep my head above that? And what is that sand? Where's that coming from? And I don't know if that's a great image or analogy for people but it's a unique thing moving from, for me, a very well known profession as a school psychologist where I felt a lot of confidence and got a lot of validation into. A lot of the insecurities of not necessarily knowing what I was supposed to be doing. I heard once another pastor said to me that when he accepted the call he got down on his knees before the cross and just said, hey God, I have no idea what I'm doing. You know that I have no idea what I'm doing.

Eric Ockrin:

And pretty soon all these people out here are going to find out that I have no idea what I'm doing. And that's a gross exaggeration, right? But obviously, God wouldn't call somebody who He didn't believe was able to do it. There's been moments where it's been very challenging for me. I've wanted more by way of outcomes and had to wrestle with God to say, why. Why God why is this not happening the way that I had had hoped for and imagined? Help me please to figure this out. And very often, again, I really appreciate that early on that, that image where, what would you want an older person to say to you as that ninth grader?

Eric Ockrin:

It's like God would come to me and has come to me many times and just said, look, rise up to this 30,000 foot perspective and really, son, take a look into all the things that are happening here and you may feel desperate and out of control and in many ways things are still happening and I want you to feel desperate and out of control because that's where I can come in. And that's where I can really begin to work the most with you and it'll be about him and not about me which is, again, an important thing to come to terms with as any Enneagram 3.

John lamaio:

Yeah. As I heard you talk about that... I was just listening to a spiritual director talk yesterday about this concept of really a narcissism that can exist within ministry sometimes. And you're talking about this pastor being called into ministry and then at the same time feeling like, God, I don't know what I'm doing. Pretty soon all these people aren't going to know what I'm doing.

John lamaio:

But in a way that almost means you're in the right spot. As weird as that sounds. When you're experiencing that and you can admit that.

Eric Ockrin:

Yeah.

John lamaio:

It's like that means, okay, now you're in the right spot because now you'd realize it's not about you. I don't think you have to be a pastor to experience that. All of us can experience that on one level or another where we go, I'm not the right person for this. There's got to be somebody better. Pretty soon everybody's going to figure out that I'm a phony. There's a lot of us feeling that way right now.

John lamaio:

How about for those people that might be in that spot? That might be thinking to themselves right now, as they're listening to this, man, I feel like I don't know what I'm doing. God knows that I don't know what I'm doing. Everybody else is going to find out that I don't know what I'm doing. What would you say to that person?

Eric Ockrin:

Yeah. First off, I would say to that person, welcome to the club. It seems like we all are wrestling with this and I would want them to know as well as I need to be reminded by those who I know love me that this being grounded in this trust and in this peace that God can offer is a process. Again, coming back to that.

Eric Ockrin:

But also I think it's recognizing our human propensities towards fear and anxiety and worry and really just when we can see some of those things coming at ourselves and be disciplined in that. And trust again, voices around us, people that love us and care about us and know us as well as we know ourselves are better. Just to say, hey, look, I can see a sink in here. Just take a step back and know that we're going to get through this. And to know that I'm not alone in that, really makes a big difference. Having people around me that I do trust can help me.

Peter Englert:

I want to come to the other side of that. Because I think if some of our listeners that are in their 20s, they're extremely talented, they're making a ton of difference. They probably relate a little bit to you in the school psychology realm or even as the youth pastor realm and they're in this season where it feels like there's two or three people in the way of the next step.

Peter Englert:

They're looking at this, why do I get so worried when life's out of control? They're sitting here thinking, I'm going to give my age away but they're thinking about the movie office space and they're like, I am just stuck in this office job. No matter what I do, no matter who I talk to. What would you say to them? That when they feel out of control that maybe their talents aren't being utilized the most. Maybe they don't feel appreciated. I think you've probably lived a little bit of that. So what'd you say them?

Eric Ockrin:

Well, I guess I think of a passage in scripture in the Book of Romans and where he's talking to the church in Rome and saying that all things are going to work for the good of those who are called according to his purposes. In that scripture, what I think of is, okay, so he's working all things. How is he going to do that? And what are his ultimate purposes for me in this stage of life? God, how am I going get there?

Eric Ockrin:

What I'm reminded of is actually something that happens in verses before that. In verses 27 and verses 26 of Romans chapter eight where it says that we can get there and that God is working all these things out for our good because it says that the Holy Spirit is interceding for us in verse 27 and in verse 26 and encourage folks to check that out and just spend some time thinking about that.

Eric Ockrin:

Because that means that I don't necessarily have to distrust in me and that I'm going to make it happen or that my prayer is going to be fervent enough to get me to that next place. But in fact, God Himself, in the person of the Holy Spirit, is interested and vested and in fact conspiring for my good. So much so that He is praying for these purposes to come to pass in my life that it's not just dependent upon me. Thank God. He's interested in that happening.

Peter Englert:

I'm going to get pretty personally here that's all really good. If I had your wife and four kids here and they said this is what Eric looks like when we sense he's out of control. Just to be fair, I feel like we probably should answer that for ourselves too, John.

Eric Ockrin:

Before me.

Peter Englert:

[crosstalk 00:24:50]. Well, yeah. We'll give you time to think. I think the way that I look, we just had a discussion about this. I feel like all these interviews are going together but I feel like for me I'm over apologizing, I'm over investing in relationships. Where I physically feel it is, I feel a knot in my chest where I just I realize I'm not in control and I think the difference too is I'm frantic. I'm talking faster, I'm trying to get things done and I can feel it. The conversations are shorter, I'm a little bit more abrupt. I don't know. What about you, John?

John lamaio:

Yeah, I definitely resonate with that. I would say I feel it probably more in my gut than in my chest. I get very tight or I'll go from frantic to just shutting down. My mind will go into overdrive and then figure out it can't figure everything out and then just go into shutdown mode and just be unable to focus on anything for a while. I think when I'm really in worry mode, you could probably see it on my face, the glazed over look. When I'm in pretty severe worry mode, I think that's where I go.

Eric Ockrin:

Yeah. For me, it's perhaps more a little bit more like Peter. Full disclosure, this season of these past six months has been pretty distressful for me. And most of it's actually related to the work of the church and trying to discern where God wants us to be and where He wants us to go. And so for me the indicator I actually just had some heart work done. I got a new Apple watch because my wife wanted me to be able to record my heartbeat when I was having abnormal heart beats and saw a cardiologist, had an echocardiogram. So stress and worry can impact me deeply on a physiological level. And even in terms of rest and sleep. If my kids were here and my wife was here, they would say that I am tired and that I'm worrying so much or that it's affecting my heart rate even-

John lamaio:

Yeah. So let me, let me ask this question. Because it's something that all of us struggle with, right? All of us worry, all of us have this tendency. I just think of the news right now as we're recording this. Stock market is crashing, coronavirus. Who knows what that's going to become by the time this airs in a few

weeks? Who knows? Both of those things could be either out of control or they could be back to normal again. We don't know.

John Iamaio:

As we're sitting here right now in this moment, it seems like the world could possibly be collapsing around us if you pay attention to the news, right? How do you maintain peace while still living in the midst of chaotic circumstances? Whether that's the big large scale stuff or the stuff that you're talking about in your own life like the church that you're giving your life to. You're just trying to go like, Lord, where do you want this next? Where do you want this to go next? It feels so chaotic right now. How do you get peace in the middle of that?

Eric Ockrin:

A long time ago, some very wise people had shared with me and it's very practical and very simple, a prayer. It's a serenity prayer. And the thing is my humanity may be racing and just having difficulty with trust. Feeling anxious and all that stuff. But the prayer, is serenity prayer where I can, as many times a day as I need that, focusing on the particular day and not reminding myself not to get out in the future but God grant me the serenity. Grant me the serenity, grant me the peace, grant me the serenity to accept those things that I cannot change.

Eric Ockrin:

The courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference. So it's really just so simple. I think a lot of the answers in life really do have a profound simplicity to them. But God give me the wisdom to be able to differentiate between the things that I actually do have some control over and those things that I don't have any control over and I just beg of you to reveal to me what it is. And so that's simple advice. And I do say the serenity prayer a lot. And I do find that it helps me.

Peter Englert:

Yeah. I want to come back to, because that prayer is a great segue. You're two minutes, give us enough to talk for an hour. The only thing we haven't talked about is the election and you brought that up. Why did you bring that up and what's making you anxious about that?

Eric Ockrin:

Yeah. Well, it's interesting for better or for worse, I find myself in a place where I just have all kinds of acquaintances, deep dear friends. The whole spectrum of politics, right? No matter who I'm talking to, there is just this unrest and this unease and just disappointment in the other, in the different side. I just find that to be such a real and present example and obviously it's an election year. And it came to my mind too quickly because that's just the felt reality right now. You cannot look at Facebook, you cannot turn on the news. You cannot pick up a newspaper. You can't listen to a podcast and not here's some reference to politics.

Eric Ockrin:

How do you find peace in a time when politics is crazy? I remember that there is nothing that's going to happen to me or to us in 2020 with regard to the elections that Jesus and I can't handle together. And so that pairs with that idea of politics is crazy but really is there anything that can happen with regard to the political arena in 2020 that Jesus and I or Jesus in us that we can't handle together? It's putting the

confidence in him and the other worldly kingdom versus any woman or man who may become the president of the United States of America and trusting in her or him.

Peter Englert:

It's funny in my informal Peter Englert Sienna poll. I feel like at Browncroft it's 50, 50. One day I'll have a conversation, this person definitely voted this way. This person voted this way and it can feel so hard. I remember the day after the election, it's the last time when I was on staff. One person said thank God that He answered our prayers, that we got the president we wanted. And the other person said watch out. We better pray that God takes care of us because this isn't the person that... It's so hard, in the same building to feel that and to know that, the Congress. It goes back to this thing about control. If the person in my party is the president, then I'm good. We're in control. But if it's not and it's almost like it's this heightened volume, 30 out of 30 now. Just so really hard.

John lamaio:

Well, Just to close it up and you've talked a lot about Jesus obviously and alluded to Jesus when it comes to this idea but the way Peter and I always like to end these podcasts is by looking at Jesus and really saying, okay, Jesus, what do you have to tell us about this subject? And he has so much to say about this subject. I feel like that we could probably spend three hours just unpack it easily. Just unpacking that.

John lamaio:

So we're in no rush necessarily to get through this but let's pretend for a moment that Jesus is here with us. Well, I guess, in theory He is. Let's talk physically, here with us sitting at the table. What do you think Jesus would say about this topic of worry and being in control. Worry and control.

Peter Englert:

Are we going to let Eric go first or are we going-

John lamaio:

No. We're going to go first. We're going to let Eric clear up our hair. I see [crosstalk 00:33:44]. So that's great.

Peter Englert:

So I kept thinking there's this scene where Jesus is with two sisters. It's Mary and Martha and Mary takes this role of, I'm just going to sit and I'm going to listen to Jesus. And Martha is cleaning the house and you I keep going back to that scene. I think I've told this story about my wife.

Peter Englert:

I'm thinking about all the people here that worry about finances. And when my wife was a little girl she had two older siblings and the family would go out to eat once every two months, not even crazy. And she would make a comment to our parents and say, we can't go out to eat because you're not going have enough money to send me through college. And you just think of Martha's role.

Peter Englert:

Here's the savior of the universe who said don't be anxious of anything. Worry, we'll take care of it. It's like all this stuff on worry. And there she is like, tell my sister to help me out. And I wonder how often

we're there. How often we're walking through worry and pain to a place that we're not moving forward. I go back to the serenity prayer too. We focus so much on what we don't have control over when God is saying this the easier things that I'm calling you to take care of and how often.

Peter Englert:

You can wake up on time, you can do the dishes, you can check that box off the to do list and we're so worried about the things we can't control. And I'd just be honest, probably the biggest thing in season that's challenged me is there's some places where I would like to be on a personal level whether it's spiritually, career-wise even marriage-wise and I find myself like Martha like, this is a problem. And God's like, why don't you take care of the things that you're supposed to? So I don't know. John, go ahead.

John lamaio:

That's good. Well, I just think of a passage in the Bible where Jesus has been surrounded by people all day. He goes by himself to pray and he says to his disciples, hey, I want you to get inside of this boat and I want you to sail to the other side of this lake. And he knows what's going to hit him but he sends him anyway.

John lamaio:

And I see a huge storm comes up. And these are people who have been around boats their whole life and they know it. So it's an area of strength for them but yet they are so overwhelmed by this storm that they can't make it through. And actually in this story, Jesus is in the boat with them and He's asleep in the middle of the other storm there. They're trying everything they can.

John lamaio:

And finally, they wake Jesus up as He's asleep in the boat with them and say, help us. And to them, I think they're probably saying to him, grab a bucket. We want you to help us. And Jesus is like, you have so little faith because He's like, let me show you who I really Am. And he just speaks and the storm stops. And I think how often in my life and often it comes in areas where I perceive that I'm strong, these storms come up.

John lamaio:

I feel like I question Jesus in that moment. And I go, you either don't care about me or you're not strong enough to help me where I'm at. Those are the two things that I struggle with in the middle of those storms. Jesus, you don't care about me. Jesus. You're not strong enough to help me.

John lamaio:

And Jesus, I think if he were here would say to us, would say to everyone listening, no, I do care. I want you to understand that first and foremost that I care what you're going through. And I think He would also say and I want you to trust me that I'm strong enough to take care of this. As you were saying before, Eric, there's nothing that life can throw our way that together we and Jesus can't handle. So that's where I think Jesus would bring us into. Eric though. What about you?

Eric Ockrin:

Yeah. I really appreciate actually both of your reflections about what Jesus might say. If I could just add one thing, Peter, to your reflection about Mary and Martha. It's interesting going back to the beginning of what we were talking about and the longer view of things. That next interaction between Mary and Martha and Jesus. There's a very different Martha present when Jesus raises their dear friend Lazarus from the dead.

Eric Ockrin:

Martha is not busy. Martha is the one who was expressing so much more faith in what Jesus can actually do. And so it's just hope for all of us, right? We may be in that frantic place today but again, what will happen out in the future if we just begin to trust and believe. But what would Jesus say about this topic?

Eric Ockrin:

What I think about, in addition to the great things you guys shared, was this portion of scripture in John's Gospel where the scene really it's the last supper. So it's the Passover Seder. The Jesus is celebrating where institutes the Holy Communion. In these chapters, there's a lot of turmoil. This is hours before the trial and the suffering and the crucifixion and so they're all together.

Eric Ockrin:

And Jesus senses the tension. He knows that there's a lot of questions that the disciples are asking him and they're concerned and they're worried and they're fearful and they're disoriented. They're feeling out of control in this moment because Jesus is saying He's going to be going away and they're confused and so on and so forth.

Eric Ockrin:

But He says it in one point, I think it's maybe chapter 14 in the beginning, He says, don't let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God, believe also in me. And as I've spent some time in that verse, I'm looking at the language there and what Jesus is communicating. He's talking about belief. He's talking about faith. He's talking about trust. You believe in God, you trust God.

Eric Ockrin:

You have faith in God. Well, have trust and faith and belief in me such that the sentence before that, don't let your hearts be troubled, really a way of translating that, that seemed very apropos to this whole notion of being out of control and being patient in the process is don't let your hearts, dearly beloved, don't let your heart stay troubled, right?

Eric Ockrin:

So I think it's important for us to be real, to be authentic to be vulnerable to say, I, no matter where we are in this pilgrimage and in our faith journey and in our intimacy with God that even the greatest of saints perhaps still had the moments where they were struggling profoundly.

Eric Ockrin:

These were the guys who were with Jesus in that boat when He calmed the storm, who watched Peter walk on the water, right? And here they are really feeling out of control. And they continued to struggle with it. So if we can look at the saints of old, if we could look at those closest to Jesus when He walked the face of the earth and we can be real with ourselves and say, we're like them.

Eric Ockrin:

They're like us. We may want to put them up on this pedestal, the spiritual giant. And in many respects, in regards, they are but they're also human. And so if we could just realize that we don't have to let our hearts stay troubled, right? Jesus is reminding them in chapters afterwards, His peace is going to be with them.

Eric Ockrin:

They're not going to be left on their own. He's going to give the Holy Spirit who's going to abide with us and help us along the way and on and on and on. That's what I think of. Jesus would just say, yeah, I already talked about that. And here it is in writing for you to just lean on in you're hardest times.

Peter Englert:

Father Eric, this has been a wonderful conversation or so glad to have you here. Just remember this, make sure you subscribe to our podcast. We're on Stitcher, Apple podcast, Google podcast, Spotify. If we're not on a platform just let us know, we'll put it on there. You can also share about the show at #WGWPodcast. We are on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. As I would say, give us a five star review as John would say, give us a what you really think. And I would say-

John lamaio:

Don't worry. Don't worry about what review you're going to get.

Peter Englert:

God's in control of it.

John lamaio:

That's right. God's in control of it.

Peter Englert:

Wow.

John lamaio:

Why worry about which review?

Peter Englert:

We just got a great Jesus juke right there.

John lamaio:

Yeah, we do.

Peter Englert:

Anyways, on that note, have a great day. Thank you so very much. And we'll see you again next time.