

Jesus knows how you feel

Hebrews 4:15

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

From *In the Eye of the Storm* (Lucado) – Chippie the parakeet never saw it coming. One second he was peacefully perched in his cage. The next he was sucked in, washed up, and blown over.

The problems began when Chippie's owner decided to clean Chippie's cage with a vacuum cleaner. She removed the attachment from the end of the hose and stuck it in the cage. The phone rang, and she turned to pick it up. She'd barely said, "hello" when "sssopp!" Chippie got sucked in.

The bird owner gasped, put down the phone, turned off the vacuum, and opened the bag. There was Chippie – still alive, but stunned.

Since the bird was covered with dust and soot, she grabbed him and raced to the bathroom, turned on the faucet, and held Chippie under the running water. Then, realizing that Chippie was soaked and shivering, she reached for the hair dryer and blasted the pet with hot air. Poor Chippie never knew what hit him.

A few days after the trauma, the reporter who had initially written about the event contacted Chippie's owner to see how the bird was recovering. "Well," she replied, "Chippie doesn't sing much anymore – he just sits and stares."

Jesus had days like that in his life on earth. One day early in his ministry he received news that his relative and friend, John the Baptist had been beheaded. As he was grieving, the disciples came back from the mission trip he had sent them on. They were full of joy for the things they had accomplished including casting out demons. Jesus tried to take them to a quiet place for reflection, but was followed by large crowd of as many as 25,000 people whom he taught and fed. He followed all that with a night of prayer with his Father. There were many other days when He was severely tempted by the devil, the religious leaders, and even his own disciples. Good Friday was obviously the worst of those. So you can see that Jesus knows how you feel.

During all the craziness of this world, especially during this pandemic, we are tossed about. This is particularly so for those in charge of people's lives who are greatly at risk.

Lord, thank you for showing us that you know what we are going through. Give wisdom and knowledge to all our first responders and to those in charge of facilities for the aged and vulnerable. Specifically, give them your peace which is like no other. Help them to remember that Good Friday-like days are followed by Easter Sunday days, and that the living Christ is with them each passing moment. Help them to remember that Jesus knows how they feel. Amen.