

Calling: The Need for Oxygen
November 8, 2008

May 10, 1996

A check of the gauge on my oxygen tank had revealed that it was almost empty. I needed to get down, fast...

Harris, who left the summit shortly after I did, soon pulled up behind me. Wanting to conserve whatever oxygen remained in my tank, I asked him to reach inside my backpack and turn off the valve on my regulator, which he did. For the next ten minutes I felt

surprisingly good. My head cleared. I actually seemed less tired than with the gas turned on. Then, abruptly, I felt like I was suffocating. My vision dimmed and my head began to spin. I was on the brink of losing consciousness.

We need oxygen for life. Not to be squandered but to give us focus and direction.

Caiaphas

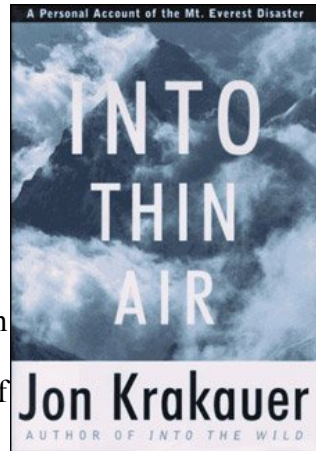
Luke 3:2

John 11:49 "But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all,

50 nor do you take into account that it is expedient for you that one man die for the people, and that the whole nation not perish

Acts 4:6 "and Annas the high priest was there, and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of high-priestly descent.

7 When they had placed them in the center, they began to inquire, "By what power, or in what name, have you done this?"



"Caiaphas": "Joseph, surnamed Caiaphas: the Jewish high priest between 18 and 37 CE

The following taken from:

<http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/jesus/jeskeyfigures.html>

"The high priest had another, more controversial function in first-century Jerusalem: serving as a sort of liaison between Roman authority and the Jewish population. High priests, drawn from the Sadducean aristocracy, received their appointment from Rome since the time of Herod the Great, and Rome looked to high priests to keep the Jewish populace in line...

"High priests, including Caiaphas, were both respected and despised by the Jewish population. As the highest religious authority, they were seen as playing a critical role in religious life and the Sanhedrin. At the same time, however, many Jews resented the close relationship that high priest maintained with Roman authorities and suspected them of taking bribes or practicing other forms of corruption."

And the following taken from:

<http://www.livius.org/caa-can/caiaphas/caiaphas.htm>

"In 18, the Roman governor Valerius Gratus appointed Caiaphas as high priest. The two men must have had an excellent working relation, because Caiaphas remained in office exceptionally long. Gratus' successor Pontius Pilate retained the high priest in office. "

John the Baptist

Luke 3:2

In the wilderness – the simple places of life
Came the Word of God

It empowered John to fulfill his mission

Luke 1:76-79

For us

1 Timothy 4:14

Conclusion

Instead of turning my oxygen off, [climbing partner Andy] Harris, in his hypoxically impaired state, had mistakenly cranked the valve open to full flow, draining the tank. I'd just squandered the last of my gas going nowhere. There was another tank waiting for me at the South Summit, 250 feet below, but to get there I would have to descend the most exposed terrain on the entire route without benefit of supplemental oxygen.

Turn on the oxygen

Come to God with these crucial questions:

When did God first call me?

What did He say?

What pure desire did He lay on my heart back then?