

Leader Guide



Speaker: Casey Scott

Series: Failing Forward

Title: Be Too Task-Oriented

Primary Texts: Mark 5:21-43

Big Idea: Walk slow enough to see divine appointments and holy interruptions as Jesus' task for you.

Sermon Outline

1. Intro – Walking Speeds & Spiritual Pace

- Story of different walking speeds: “brisk & running late” vs “museum walkers.”
- Spiritually, many of us assume the goal is speed and efficiency.
- In Mark 5, Jesus is moving toward something urgent—but He’s never in a hurry.
- In the kingdom, the “interruption” often is the mission, not the obstacle to it.

2. See the Real Task

- Jairus is desperate: his little girl is dying; Jesus goes with him—He’s not lazy or indifferent.
- Crowd presses in; the disciples go into task mode: “Get Jesus to the house before the girl dies.”
- In task mode we stop seeing people as people and see them as variables or obstacles.
- Jesus stops to ask, “Who touched me?” The disciples think the destination is the task.
- Jesus is teaching: the people are the task.
- Nouwen: “My interruptions were my work.”
- Relationships aren’t an interruption to ministry; relationships are the job description.

3. Reframe the Interruption

- The woman’s story: 12 years of bleeding, unclean, excluded, broke, in pain—social, emotional, financial, spiritual suffering.
- She reaches out in a mix of faith and superstition—Jesus doesn’t make her fix her theology first.
- She’s healed, but Jesus stops and keeps looking; He won’t do a “drive-by miracle.”
- He draws her out; she tells Him “the whole truth.”
- Jesus: “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace...”
 - Only time in the Gospels He calls a woman “Daughter”—restoring dignity, community, and peace.
- Helping can be quick; seeing takes time.
- If you always rush to the “real ministry,” you’ll miss Jesus’ ministry.
- The interruption is not blocking the mission; the interruption is the mission.

4. Let Love Slow You Down

- While Jesus is still talking to the woman, news comes: “Your daughter is dead... why bother the teacher anymore?”
- That’s the fear underneath our hurry: “If I slow down here, I’ll fail over there.”
- Jesus to Jairus: “Don’t be afraid; just believe.” → “Don’t let the update write the ending.”
- Jesus narrows the circle (Peter, James, John) to train future leaders in His pace and priorities.
- At the house: wailing, mockery when He says she’s “asleep.”
- Jesus clears the room—He doesn’t negotiate with cynicism.
- “Talitha koum!” – “Little girl, I say to you, get up!” She rises; Jesus says, “Give her something to eat.”
- Jesus: powerful and tender, miraculous and practical, never frantic.
- Story from Magdala & Fr. Kelly: “Look at Jesus, girl.” A real-time example of someone slow enough to see a divine appointment.

5. Conclusion – Practices That Help Us Walk Slow With Jesus

- Build margin on purpose – if your life is at 100%, every person feels like a problem.
- In the moment, ask “Who?” not just “What/How?” – “Who is Jesus putting in front of me right now?”
- Stay long enough to make it personal – learn the name, ask the extra question, pray with them, not just for them later.
- Gospel: Jesus touches what everyone else avoids—uncleanness and death—and transmits cleansing and life.
- He isn’t rushed with you; He sees and loves you. Now slow down and bring others with you.

HEART – “This Is Me”

1. Your Default Pace

Would you say you’re more of a “SWAT team walker” (task-focused, move fast) or a “museum walker” (stop, notice, linger)?

How has that shown up in your spiritual life lately?

2. People as Obstacles

Can you think of a recent time when you mostly saw people as obstacles to your plan or schedule?

How did that affect your attitude toward them—and toward God?

3. Interruptions & Anxiety

When your plans get interrupted, what emotions rise to the surface first—annoyance, guilt, panic, fear of falling behind, shame?

What does that reveal about where you’re looking for security or identity?

4. Being Seen vs. Being Fixed

In the woman’s story, Jesus doesn’t just fix her issue; He calls her “Daughter” and listens to the whole truth.

Have you ever had a moment where you felt not just helped, but truly seen?

What did that do in your heart?

5. The Fear Behind Your Hurry

Which version of this fear feels most like you:

- “If I slow down here, I’ll fail over there,”
 - “If I stop for this person, I’ll drop the ball somewhere else,”
 - or “If I don’t do it all, everything will fall apart”?
- How does Jesus’ calm confidence in Mark 5 speak to that fear?

6. Jesus’ Pace Toward You

How does it land on your heart to realize Jesus is not rushed with you—He sees you, touches your uncleanness, and is not in a hurry to discard you?

HEAD – “This Is What I Need to Think About”

1. Read Mark 5:21–43.

- What contrasts do you see between Jairus and the bleeding woman—status, urgency, visibility, how they approach Jesus?
- How does Jesus treat both of them?

2. Task vs. People

The disciples seem locked onto “Get Jesus to Jairus’ house.”

- What clues in the text show that Jesus is more focused on people than on completing tasks quickly?
- How does this challenge a “results-only” view of ministry?

3. Faith with Mixed Motives

The woman comes with a blend of faith and superstition (touching the tassel).

- What does Jesus’ response to her teach us about how He meets people whose theology or motives are imperfect but who are still reaching for Him?

4. “Daughter... Go in Peace”

- What is significant about Jesus calling her “Daughter” and publicly affirming her faith?
- How does that moment address not only her body but her soul and her standing in the community?

5. “Don’t Be Afraid; Just Believe”

- How does Jesus’ word to Jairus reframe the horrible news he receives?
- What does it teach us about the relationship between bad updates and ultimate outcomes in God’s hands?

6. Jesus and Uncleanness/Death

In this story Jesus touches what makes others unclean (the bleeding woman, the dead girl).

- In Old Testament categories, what’s shocking about that?
- How does this story preview the heart of the gospel—that Jesus takes our uncleanness and death and gives us cleansing and life?

HANDS – “This Is How I Need to Act”

1. Build Margin on Purpose

Look at your schedule this week.

- Where can you intentionally leave some “air” (10–15 minutes of buffer, a night not booked, a lighter morning) so interruptions don’t automatically feel like threats?
- What concrete change will you make?

2. In the Moment, Ask “Who?”

The next time you’re interrupted, instead of immediately wondering how to get back to your task, practice asking:

- Can you name one likely situation this week where you can practice that (work, home, church, errands)?

3. Stay Long Enough to Make It Personal

Choose at least one conversation this week where you will:

- Learn or remember a name,
- Ask one follow-up question,
- And, if appropriate, pray with the person right then.
- Who do you already suspect God may want you to do this with?

4. Reframe a Current “Interruption”

Think about something in your life right now that feels like an interruption to your real plans.

- What would it look like to treat that situation or person as a divine appointment, not a distraction?
- What is one step you can take this week to lean into it with Jesus?

5. Practice Saying “No” to Hurry

Identify one habit that feeds your constant hurry (overcommitting, scrolling late and then always being tired, squeezing tasks to the last minute).

- What is one small “no” you can say this week so you’re more available to the people Jesus puts in front of you?

6. Group Exercise – Spot the Divine Appointment

As a group, share stories (big or small) where an “interruption” turned out to be an opportunity for ministry or encouragement.

- Then agree on one shared way your group will practice being more interruptible for Jesus this month (serving together, staying late to talk with someone, adopting a person or family to check in on).