

July 1, 2018
 Sermon for the 6th Sunday after Pentecost
 St Peter Lutheran Church
 Bowie, TX
 Larry Knobloch, Pastor
 Mark 5:21–43

J.J.- Jesu Juva—Help me, Jesus

Mark 5:21–43 (ESV)

²¹ And when Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered about him, and he was beside the sea. ²² Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, and seeing him, he fell at his feet ²³ and implored him earnestly, saying, “My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live.” ²⁴ And he went with him. And a great crowd followed him and thronged about him. ²⁵ And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, ²⁶ and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. ²⁷ She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. ²⁸ For she said, “If I touch even his garments, I will be made well.” ²⁹ And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. ³⁰ And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone out from him, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, “Who touched my garments?” ³¹ And his disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, ‘Who touched me?’” ³² And he looked around to see who had done it. ³³ But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before him and told him the whole truth. ³⁴ And he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.” ³⁵ While he was still speaking, there came from the ruler’s house some who said, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?” ³⁶ But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, “Do not fear, only believe.” ³⁷ And he allowed no one to follow him except Peter and James and John the brother of James. ³⁸ They came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and Jesus saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. ³⁹ And when he had entered, he said to them, “Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping.” ⁴⁰ And they laughed at him. But he put them all outside and took the child’s father and mother and those who were with him and went in where the child was. ⁴¹ Taking her by the hand he said to her, “Talitha cumi,” which means, “Little girl, I say to you, arise.” ⁴² And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement. ⁴³ And he strictly charged them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

Grace, mercy and peace be to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Amen.

If there's something we as Americans don't like, it's waiting. What's the worst part about the doctor's office? Waiting, of course. Why are fast food joints so busy? No wait. Traffic is killer for me! I'll say a few choice words anytime I am in the metroplex. We don't like to wait because our time is precious.

I'm sure there is a never ending list of things that we could bring up but there is one more item in particular on the list of things we don't like to wait for: how about God?

Have you ever waited for a prayer to be answered or a need to be addressed? Then you know what I'm talking about. Waiting for the Lord is more than frustrating; it can be downright discouraging.

It may seem as though God's answer is a very long time in coming, or just not coming at all. Waiting on the Lord is a test of faith.

For those of us who don't like to wait, our Old Testament Reading from the third chapter of Lamentations could teach us a thing or two. There we read wisdom such as, "*The Lord is my portion . . . therefore I will hope in him*" (Lam 3:24). And here comes a bombshell: "*It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord*" (Lam 3:26).

It's good to wait? Yes—for we're also reminded that "*the Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him*" (Lam 3:25); and "*Though he cause grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love*" (Lam 3:32).

I'd like you to keep these Old Testament words in mind because we'll see them come to life in the account of Jairus. This morning, we're going walk with Jairus and Jesus and, as the Holy Spirit opens our hearts to hear, we'll see the truth of our Old Testament Reading, that in faith it is good to wait. That is, it is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

Now on this particular day when we meet Jairus, he is not doing well. His daughter is sick—gravely ill, in fact. Being a synagogue ruler, a man of stature and influence, Jairus probably had the resources to get the kind of care that was needed for his daughter. But apparently, nothing could be done.

So Jairus went to a fellow named Jesus, who he heard had healed people. And when Jairus meets Jesus, we begin to see the depth of his need when he put all pride aside, and in the midst of a large crowd, he got down on his knees in front of Jesus and pleaded earnestly with him, "*My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live*".

At that moment, Jairus was no mighty man. He was just a dad who loved his little girl. He was a dad faced with the sickening reality that he could do nothing for the person he would do anything for.

And when Jairus spoke to Jesus, I'm sure he meant for Him to come now! The good news, I can tell you, is that Jairus in faith went to the right place for help—Jesus. Again as it's written for us today, "*The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him*" (Lam 3:25).

So Mark's Gospel tells us that Jesus agreed to go to the house of Jairus. Their walk began, and so will ours.

Many Christians don't have any problem with seeking the Lord in hope. The problem, of course, comes in what follows: the waiting. Again, although I wasn't there, I'm sure Jairus meant, "Come with me now!" However, it seems that as soon as Jesus and Jairus began their walk to the house, the waiting began.

Among the large crowd that had gathered was a woman suffering from a bleeding disorder. Had been suffering with it for twelve years. She had spent all she had on treatment, but nothing worked.

She, too, looked at Jesus in faith and thought, If I touch even his garments, I will be made well (v 28). So she did just that, and her faith in Jesus was proven right. She touched his garment, and she was healed. Jesus, perceiving her touch, looked around to find her, wanting to know who had touched his garments (v 30).

I'm sure Jairus was like "What's the difference did that make? She was already healed. She jumped the line, now let's go!

But Jesus didn't just want to heal her physically; He wanted to talk with her and bring more healing to her spiritually—to take her further and deepen her faith. So when she stepped forward, he said, "*Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease*" (v 34). Her faith looked to and held on to Jesus.

I bring up this little episode because I wonder what Jairus was thinking. I don't know for certain, but if it were me, I imagine I would have tried to feel happy for the woman.

But at the same time, I would have thought something like, C'mon, let's go. Who cares? My daughter is sick; she's dying; we don't have time for this.

And then you can only imagine what Jairus thought when we're told that, while Jesus was still speaking, some men came from the house of Jairus and with tremendous insensitivity blurted out, "*Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?*" (v 35).

These words probably knocked Jairus back to his knees, not in hope this time but in profound grief. I'm too late. I've waited too long.

And maybe he thought, The Lord is too late; He waited too long! Interestingly enough, Jesus overheard the announcement of the girl's death, but we're told He ignored it. Jesus *ignored death!*

Jesus turned and spoke to Jairus and he spoke five Words...for not just for Jairus but for us to hold to also when the day of trial comes.

Jesus said, "*Do not fear, only believe*" (v 36). Five Words of Jesus. We might imagine Jairus sitting in grief, in the middle of the road and telling Jesus "Thanks for nothing, I'm sorry to have troubled you." Maybe an edge of disappointment, disgust and even anger in his voice.

But it is Jesus who gets Jairus back on his feet and keeps on walking with those divinely faith-filled words, "*Do not fear, only believe.*"

It was Jesus who was holding on to Jairus the full distance. We remember that faith not only comes from God to us, but has its real substance and power because we are in God's gracious hand.

And Jairus held on. His daughter was dead. Yet Jairus, in faith, held on to Jesus.

They continued walking to the house and when they arrived, the reaction to the tragedy of the child's death was in full swing. There was full-blown mourning as people openly cried and wailed loudly.

But Jesus, when presented with this commotion, paused once more and calmly announced, "*The child is not dead but sleeping*" (v 39).

This statement brought the mourning to an immediate halt, so that it might be replaced with laughter. In much the same way, the world today laughs at much of what Jesus says. The mourners had no faith. "Fine "Messiah" you show up late and then spout that nonsense? Go sell it to somebody else."

And so now, let's take the final steps of this walk. Jesus, the Lord of Life, took Jairus and his wife, as well as Peter, James, and John, into the room where a little girl lay dead.

What could be done here?

Jesus simply reached down, took her by the hand, and said to her, "*Talitha cumi,*" which is Aramaic for "*Little girl, I say to you, arise*" (v 41).

How did the dead girl respond? "*Immediately the girl got up and began walking*" (v 42). At this, all were completely astonished.

The waiting was over. The Lord had answered. The Lord had come, and He brought life, joy, and peace with Him.

He is the Lord of Life, one who did not then, nor does He ever, come running to answer death's call. Instead, death answers to Him.

On His time. On His terms.

So, you tell me: what was Jairus thinking now? Praise be to God for certain.

But I wonder if, after some reflection, Jairus, the synagogue leader who probably knew his Scriptures well, may have had a couple of verses going through his head. *“The Lord is my portion . . . therefore I will hope in him”* and *“It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.”*

The day comes for all of us when a difficulty in our lives pains our heart and cuts our soul. Maybe it is a daughter or a son who’s ill. Or one who dies and is not raised back to life by Jesus . . . just yet.

Maybe it’s an illness we ourselves face, as did the woman in our text, maybe a chronic condition with which we have struggled for years.

Or maybe it’s a broken relationship that hurts just as deeply and gives you just as deep a sense of loss.

Then remember Jesus and Jairus. Specifically call to mind our Lord’s cross, on which He spoke just one Word: *“τετελεσται”* or *“it is finished”* and then He closed His eyes in our death so that we could awaken to eternal life. Everything had been done to pay for our sins... *“τετελεσται”* or *“it is finished”*

It is finished successfully! Jesus’ resurrection is the sign that death has been defeated. Remember to be in His Word of comfort and be with Him where He is present with us at His Table with grace in time of need.

Simply remember what Jesus said, *“Do not fear, only believe.”*

Believe in the Lord of life and love, Jesus Christ.

This does not mean that Jesus will solve your every earthly problem in the time and in the way that you want it solved. Jairus had to wait, for Christ had something better in mind.

You, too, may have to wait, and not just for a while, perhaps for a long while. God's answer to your prayer in this life might be the gift of endurance, learning patience, and being a witness to others through your suffering.

But listen to His Word...seek Him, wait quietly; He is your portion. Because Jesus died for you, taking away the sin that separated you from God, you have been reconciled to Him. He will never leave you or forsake you.

Your faith is holding on in the right place. In this account of Jairus, we get a glimpse at the future, at what lies in store for us on the Last Day and what is already ours now by faith in Jesus: perfect healing and resurrection from the dead.

By faith we look to the day when He reaches down to us in our death and takes us by the hand to wake us from the slumber of death.

“My child, I say to you, arise.”

For now we must trust and wait—and then wait some more and trust—and that is a good thing as we wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

Amen.

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Amen.

S.D.G.—Soli Deo Gloria

Sermon Outline

Waiting for the Lord

Mark 5:21-43

- I. It's hard to wait when we need Jesus now.
- II. *"The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him."* Lamentations 3:25
- III. Therefore fear not, only believe, and wait quietly for the Lord.