

Pastor Matthew Ude

July 1st, 2018

6th Sunday after Pentecost

Mark 5:21-43 ²¹ Now when Jesus had crossed over again by boat to the other side, a great multitude gathered to Him; and He was by the sea. ²² And behold, one of the rulers of the synagogue came, Jairus by name. And when he saw Him, he fell at His feet ²³ and begged Him earnestly, saying, "My little daughter lies at the point of death. Come and lay Your hands on her, that she may be healed, and she will live." ²⁴ So Jesus went with him, and a great multitude followed Him and thronged Him. ²⁵ Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years, ²⁶ and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse. ²⁷ When she heard about Jesus, she came behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment. ²⁸ For she said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well." ²⁹ Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction. ³⁰ And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched My clothes?" ³¹ But His disciples said to Him, "You see the multitude thronging You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?'" ³² And He looked around to see her who had done this thing. ³³ But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came 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 affliction." ³⁵ While He was still speaking, some came from the ruler of the synagogue's house who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?" ³⁶ As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not be afraid; only believe." ³⁷ And He permitted no one to follow Him except Peter, James, and John the brother of James. ³⁸ Then He came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and saw a tumult and those who wept and wailed loudly. ³⁹ When He came in, He said to them, "Why make this commotion and weep? The child is not dead, but sleeping." ⁴⁰ And they ridiculed Him. But when He had put them all outside, He took the father and the mother of the child, and those who were with Him, and entered where the child was lying. ⁴¹ Then He took the child by the hand, and said to her, "Talitha, cumi," which is translated, "Little girl, I say to you, arise." ⁴² Immediately the girl arose and walked, for she was twelve years of age. And they were overcome with great amazement. ⁴³ But He commanded them strictly that no one should know it, and said that something should be given her to eat.

Things aren't always as they seem, actually things are rarely as they seem. A boy pulls a girl's pony tail, it seems to the girl like he hates her. A girl tells a boy he is a pig, it seems to the boy like she hates him.

Despite thinking we are grown up, we aren't much better than those kids. We see one thing we think we know what is going on. Jesus has his own reason for doing things but we usually judge him based on what it seems to us.

No Matter What It May Seem Jesus is here to Heal

It Seems as if Jesus isn't listening

So often we when pray it seems as if Jesus isn't listening, so we think we need to pray harder, or pray more often. We think maybe if we pray kneeling in the church that will be better also. Notice that Jairus does this too. Jesus is too busy. Jesus is surrounded by the crowds. I need to fall at his feet. I need to cry out with a loud voice.

Compare that to the petition of the woman, silent, saying nothing, the barest prayer. She just comes up from behind and touches his garment. That is the sum total of her prayer.

Which one does Jesus answer? Both. He immediately comes with Jairus. He immediately heals the woman.

It's not the loudness of our prayers. It's not how often we repeat them.

What makes Jesus answer prayers? It's the need of those who believe in Him. They need Him He answers. It's not the size of the need either. When one of his children need Him, he's there.

It often doesn't look to us like Jesus is listening to our prayers, but the reality is that Jesus comes when we ask, and immediately.

It may seem as if we are not worthy but Jesus heals anyway

Here we see another difference between the woman and Jairus. Jairus comes boldly. He's the ruler of the synagogue. The woman is afraid to even approach Jesus.

The truth is we are unworthy. There is no problem there. There is no wondering. We are unworthy sinners. Jesus loves us and listens anyway.

There have certainly been times in my life when I thought, "the Lord isn't going to listen to me after I just did that."

But Jesus doesn't allow our sin to keep us apart. He died for our sins. He wiped them away. Now he encourages us to come to Him.

Notice how Jesus immediately calls the woman out. He doesn't want her to go away thinking she can't approach him. He calls her to come forward and confront Him, so that she might know that she can always approach Him.

It may seem as if we are unworthy and actually this one is true, we are unworthy but Christ makes it clear we are welcome in His presence anyway.

It may seem as Jesus is really slow

Meanwhile, Jairus must be pulling his hair out. Why are you stopping to talk to this woman? My daughter is almost dead.

I can certainly sympathize with Jairus here. I didn't get married till I was 32, 10 or 12 years later than most of my friends. There were certainly times when I thought, why won't you listen to me Lord? But of course the Lord knew what He was doing the whole time.

The Lord has his own time table that isn't the same as ours.

Jesus goes with Jairus in the first place for Jairus sake. He didn't need to go to His house. He didn't need to hurry. Jesus has everything under control. But Jairus asks and Jesus goes with Him.

This is what Jesus tells Jairus, "Do not be afraid, only believe."

Some are going to read this statement as though the amount of Jairus' faith is somehow affecting the answer.

Jesus' ability to heal is not dependent on our faith. He is going to heal his daughter. What Jesus is telling Jairus is, "I've got this, just trust me."

It often seems like Jesus isn't listening but actually he's got it all under control, If we just trust Him we can sleep at night, even sleep in a boat in a storm, no problem.

Sometimes even seems as if Jesus fails

Jairus, his servant, all the people gathered in the house are all convinced the girl is dead. There is nothing Jesus can do. He is too late.

Jesus knows better, "She is not dead but only sleeping." Of course Jesus knows that yes physically she is dead, but it doesn't matter to Jesus, death or life, He has power over both. Death is nothing to Jesus. He knows that it doesn't matter.

Many times we pray for healing and the person dies and we think why didn't Jesus listen. We forget that Jesus did listen. He did heal that person. He took them out of pain and suffering forever.

In this case Jesus did heal even death. Look at his love for Jairus and His daughter.

He brings her back to life.

He makes everyone leave the room for her sake.

He even makes sure she gets something to eat.

In this case Jesus heals at other times He takes people home to heaven. Whether He gives life or death the one thing that we can be certain of is that He cares. He is our good shepherd who watches over the sheep, who takes care of us in all things.

From our angle, it often looks as if Jesus is not listening, is not hurrying, has failed to be there when we need Him, but this is never true, no matter what it seems He is always at our side.

AMEN

The peace of God that surpasses all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.