

“The Work in the Waiting”

This past Tuesday the Lord put this message on my heart. The title of today’s message is “The Work in the Waiting.” The funny thing is that I finished this sermon in a waiting room while I was waiting for Gabriel to come out of surgery Friday morning. I have a confession family. Friday morning beginning at 6:30a.m. I was overcome with fear. Normally I have strong faith and trust in God but for whatever reason I was battle some severe anxiety about Gabriel procedure. He got his wisdom teeth taken out and was fully sedated. I kept telling myself over and over again to take courage and rebuke fear...but I was failing. It was honestly quite traumatic because (and I am not exaggerating here) about five minutes after he came to, they rushed him out of the facility and into my car. He was in pain, confused, and hyperventilating. It is the worst feeling in the world as a parent to see your child in that situation and feel completely helpless. Of course, I prayed and took authority by declaring healing and peace...but I was failing in the fight of fear. Praise Jesus about an hour later Gabe was in his right mind and had absolutely no pain. His face didn’t even swell from the procedure.

I reflected on this battle with fear. I had been with Gabe at other surgeries and been to the emergency room with him a few times and never had this battle. It is funny that I was in a *waiting room* and not waiting on the Lord very well.

We see the term “wait on the Lord” in the Psalms, Proverbs, and many other places in Scripture. Waiting on the Lord is not passive like we would think sitting in a waiting room is. Waiting on the Lord includes real work. While you wait on God you need to trust Him, hear His voice, obey what He says, and keep your heart guarded from fear and doubt. The bottom line is that we want to be in a position that we can follow the will of God in any given situation and remain connected to His presence at all times. When we fail to wait on the Lord, we fail to do our best to follow His will.

Today I want to look at the story of Jairus found in Luke 8 and learn from the lesson about waiting on Jesus’ healing. If you have your Bibles go with me to Luke 8 and we are going to begin in verse 40:

40 And as Jesus returned, the people welcomed Him, for they had all been waiting for Him. 41 And there came a man named Jairus, and he was an official of the synagogue; and he fell at Jesus’ feet, and began to implore Him to come to his house; 42 for he had an only daughter, about twelve years old, and she was dying. But as He went, the crowds were pressing against Him.

As Jesus and the disciples are leaving the Gentile region after delivering the man with thousands of demons, they approach the Jewish side of the sea and come across a man named Jairus. This man was a “ruler of the synagogue” which would be something like a modern pastor. It was someone who managed both spiritual and the business affairs of the local house of God. As a religious leader, everyone in the city would know who you are and what you stand for. As we have seen from our study through the book of John, the religious leaders didn’t like Jesus so much and were threatened by Him. They wanted Jesus dead. I am not sure if Jairus believed in

Jesus, but we can clearly see here that he at least believed Jesus could perform a miracle and placed his faith in the Lord Jesus. We see Jairus bowing humbly at the feet of Jesus.

I heard a preacher teaching through this story once and he said that when he was studying this passage of Scripture, he took his phone out and looked up a picture of his grown daughter when she was 12 years old. He wanted to feel the emotion of what Jairus could have felt in that moment. Also noticed the urgency and depth at which Jairus begged Jesus. In another story in the Scriptures a centurion told Jesus, “You don’t even need to come to my house, just say the word and I know my servant will be healed.” Not Jairus. He wanted Jesus to come to the house and physical lay hands on the girl to have her recover. But as soon as this man can ask Jesus to come heal his daughter, here comes the crowds.

I think it is important to notice that the crowd was *waiting* for Jesus when He arrived from the other side of the sea. When crowds like this gathered it was more to see Jesus perform signs and wonders or to receive something supernatural. Whether their intentions were selfish or humble, one thing remains true, they waited for Jesus. It serves as a reminder that whatever we are facing or whatever answer we are needing the answer begins with waiting on the Lord. In the old school days, there was a term called tarrying on the Lord. Our Foursquare founder Amiee McPherson created an entire room called the “Tarrying Room.” It was where people who were touched by the Lord could linger and wait for the baptism of the Holy Spirit and more. The key to navigating through the waiting seasons of life is to ***find Jesus in the waiting.***

43 And a woman who had a hemorrhage for twelve years, and could not be healed by anyone, 44 came up behind Him and touched the fringe of His cloak, and immediately her hemorrhage stopped. 45 And Jesus said, “Who is the one who touched Me?” And while they were all denying it, Peter said, “Master, the people are crowding and pressing in on You.” 46 But Jesus said, “Someone did touch Me, for I was aware that power had gone out of Me.” 47 When the woman saw that she had not escaped notice, she came trembling and fell down before Him, and declared in the presence of all the people the reason why she had touched Him, and how she had been immediately healed. 48 And He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace.”

I believe this story is really a miracle within a miracle. The little girl was 12 years old and the woman with the flow of blood had suffered for 12 years. The number 12 in the Bible is a symbol of completeness, perfection, and divine authority. Jesus wanted to show His power in the right now and in the long run. Sometimes Jesus heals us in the moment and other times He heals us in a process. Regardless, Jesus demonstrates the depth of His love by calling the woman with the flow of blood, “Daughter.” It is the only time He says this. So, it is a story of two daughters. You see how Jesus brings the situation onto a family level. He cares, He sees, He answers.

There is such a lesson to be learned here. In the waiting seasons of life sometimes God answers quickly and sometimes it seems like forever before He brings the redemptive solution to our trial. One thing is certain though, both the 12-year-old girl and the woman with the issue of blood had some type of season before the miracle. There is always a secret place before the “suddenly.” Every person here loves when “all of a sudden” the Lord speaks or brings the breakthrough. But

the secret place is actually the place of our true reward. I saw that to encourage you...don't be so fixed on the suddenly, that you ignore the secret place.

As Jesus is heading to Jairus' house He stops to address a woman who touched Him and drew power from Him. For the readers it is cool to see Jesus heal someone on the way to healing another person. Talk about two birds one stone, right? Well, put yourself in Jairus' position. His daughter is sick enough that she might die, and Jesus is taking his time. Imagine something more in modern times like a car accident in which your child is trapped and injured. You wouldn't want Jesus to take his time. There is so much in this one moment that should have made Jairus confused and even angry. For one, Jesus is taking His time and seems to have no urgency in the matter. Second, not only is this woman healed already but she was an unclean woman. Jairus was a synagogue official, and this woman should not have even been in the area to touch Jesus. I think Jairus may have felt what many Christians have felt: "Jesus why are You not answering my prayers? Why do other people get healed and not me? Why do I have to suffer when evil people seem to be carefree?" On and on the list goes. But in the middle of this human frustration there is a divine truth. Jesus could take all the time He wanted to. He has the power to raise to life. This moment is not an issue of circumstances, but an issue of trust. There *is work in the waiting*. Part of that work is building your trust in the Lord.

Let's go now to verse 49 and see why trusting Jesus is so important:

49 While He was still speaking, someone came from the house of the synagogue official, saying, "Your daughter has died; do not trouble the Teacher anymore." 50 But when Jesus heard this, He answered him, "Do not be afraid any longer; only believe, and she will be made well."

While Jesus was taking His time ministering to the woman with the issue of blood, Jairus' daughter died. A person came from his house to inform him that his daughter had died but then says something that you and I will face for the rest of our lives...an opposing word. The book of Mark in chapter 5 tells us that Jairus asked Jesus to come to his house and said, "Please come and lay Your hands on her, so that she will get well and live." Jairus expressed crazy faith in Jesus and when his daughter died, he had the opportunity to keep on believing or to give up. The servant said to Jairus, "don't bother the Teacher anymore." Have you ever had those types of thoughts "My mom just got cancer, prayer didn't work." My adult child just got a divorce, why bother God anymore it's over." Jairus came to a fork in the road. He could either give up or continue to trust God even when the situation seemed impossible.

Jesus says a powerful statement after the little girl died. He said, "do not be afraid, only *believe*." The word for "believe" in the original Greek is the word *pisteuo* which means to trust. Jesus is saying, don't fear because of the facts and the physical circumstance. Continue to trust that I can do all things and that nothing is too difficult for God.

When I was a kid, I was listening to the radio on the way to school and the DJs were taking phone calls of funny stories. One lady called in and said that when her dog was a puppy the phone rang and actually fell off the receiver and hit the puppy on the head. Now as an older dog, every time the phone rings the dog goes running outside in fear. I made myself sound older with

that story. Hey kids, we used to listen to the radio and our phones weren't in our pockets, they hung on a wall with a curly cord. But I share that story to illustrate something powerful. That dog was traumatized from an event in a negative way. Many of us have been affected or even traumatized in a negative way. Maybe we were hurt by the church or got close to someone and got hurt. The list can go on forever. But in the same way we can be traumatized with life events in the negative, we can actually be marked in a powerful way with encounters with the Lord. There are things the Lord did for me over the years that marked me. One of the reasons why I feel I can trust God so much is because He has come through for me more times than I can count. Every decade I feel my faith and trust in the Lord gets stronger. Not because I'm becoming such an amazing guy, but that I have been through some things. Haha, it reminds me of a meme I read last Thanksgiving. Someone said, "I went to Thanksgiving and the grandma didn't make the mac and cheese. I didn't like it. There wasn't enough pain in that mac and cheese."

You need to change your thinking in the waiting seasons of life. Rather than put all your energy into finding the answer, place all your strength in encountering God. The bottom line is that God is our reward. In Genesis 15:1 God tells Abraham, "Do not be afraid, I am your shield, your very great reward." God, His presence is the prize, is our reward. I mentioned at our prayer service a song the Lord used in my life from Hillsong called "Take Courage." The lyrics say, "Take courage my heart, stay steadfast my soul, He's in the waiting." When I first heard that song back in 2017, it hit me like a ton of bricks that I can choose joy in the middle of my waiting because my reward is already there. ***Turn waiting times into worship times.***

51 When He came to the house, He did not allow anyone to enter with Him, except Peter and John and James, and the girl's father and mother. 52 Now they were all weeping and lamenting for her; but He said, "Stop weeping, for she has not died, but is asleep." 53 And they began laughing at Him, knowing that she had died. 54 He, however, took her by the hand and called, saying, "Child, arise!" 55 And her spirit returned, and she got up immediately; and He gave orders for something to be given her to eat. 56 Her parents were amazed; but He instructed them to tell no one what had happened. – Luke 8:40-55 NASB1995

This is such a tense moment. You have family who are weeping over the death of a little girl. Jesus tells them to stop crying and that she is not dead only sleeping. I find it very interesting that the reaction of the people was to *laugh* at Jesus saying she was asleep rather than get angry. You would think that if your family member was dead on the floor and someone says, "They are just sleeping" the normal reaction would be, "Get this crazy person out of this house. How dare they say something like that!" The normal reaction should be intense anger. Emotions are high, a child has died, and this family *laughs* at Jesus. I think it is so interesting because it perfectly describes culture that is against Jesus. Culture laughs in the face of Jesus rather than place their trust in Him. But people of faith do not laugh...they believe. Next Jesus does something pretty powerful. He removes the family from the house and then intentionally brings in His closest three disciples and the parents of the little girl. In other words, He removed every person with doubt and brought in every person with faith. In our lives sometimes we need to remove people with doubts, or who want to place doubts in our hearts. In our lives we need to guard our hearts and minds and remove the things of doubt and let in the things of faith.

There are certain things in my life I have more faith in than others. Let me give you two examples. I have personally laid hands on 14 different people and supernaturally seen one leg shorter than the other grow out to the same length. In my hands, right before the eyes of other people. So, if someone approaches me and says they have back pain because one of their legs is shorter than the other, I'll have them sit in a chair, grab their feet and with no hesitation declare supernatural growth. Another area is supernatural provision. I've lost jobs, lost housing, lost finances, and every time I have seen God do a miracle. If I lost my job and home today, I would have confidence God would not only give me another house and job, but even better. Why? Because I have seen Him do it too many times!

When you purpose your life to remove doubts and stand on faith it is going to become easier and easier to obey what Jesus said...only believe. You and I can have audacious faith and fully believe because we serve a God who is able. Romans 4:17 says, "God gives life to the dead and calls things which do not exist as though they did." Jesus is not out of touch with reality when He says this dead girl is just asleep. Jesus is calling something that is not as though it is. My God created everything that is in existence from...nothing! God took nothing and created everything and you're telling something is impossible. God created possible. And if my God has the power to raise the dead to life, what are my first world problems? Why should I doubt? In fact, why don't I have even more faith over my small problems?