

## Luke 8:40-56

40 Now when Jesus returned, a crowd welcomed him, for they were all expecting him. 41 Then a man named Jairus, a synagogue leader, came and fell at Jesus' feet, pleading with him to come to his house 42 because his only daughter, a girl of about twelve, was dying. As Jesus was on his way, the crowds almost crushed him.

43 And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her. 44 She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped.

45 "Who touched me?" Jesus asked. When they all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you." 46 But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me." 47 Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet. In the presence of all the people, she told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed. 48 Then he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace."

49 While Jesus was still speaking, someone came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. "Your daughter is dead," he said. "Don't bother the teacher anymore.

50 Hearing this, Jesus said to Jairus, "Don't be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed." 51 When he arrived at the house of Jairus, he did not let anyone go in with him except Peter, John and James, and the child's father and mother.

52 Meanwhile, all the people were wailing and mourning for her. "Stop wailing," Jesus said. "She is not dead but asleep."

53 They laughed at him, knowing that she was dead.

54 But he took her by the hand and said, "My child, get up!"

55 Her spirit returned, and at once she stood up. Then Jesus told them to give her something to eat. 56 Her parents were astonished, but he ordered them not to tell anyone what had happened.

PSALM 43 CONCLUDES WITH A QUESTION, FOLLOWED BY A CALL TO FAITH, SAYING:

"WHY ARE YOU CAST DOWN; O MY SOUL, AND WHY ARE YOU DISQUIETED WITHIN ME?

HOPE IN GOD; FOR I SHALL AGAIN PRAISE HIM, MY HELP AND MY GOD."

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES LIKE THIS ONE REMIND US THAT HOPE IN GOD IS NOT A FEELING, BUT RATHER IT IS A DECISION.

WE CHOOSE TO HOPE IN THE LORD BASED UPON THE DEEPEST LEVELS OF OUR BELIEF IN GOD'S GOODNESS AND LOVE, POWER, AND CONCERN.

HOWEVER, IT IS NOT ALWAYS EASY EVEN FOR PEOPLE OF FAITH TO HOLD ONTO HOPE IN EVERY CIRCUMSTANCE.

QUESTIONS ABOUT GOD'S TIMING, OR OUR FEARS ABOUT HIS CARE FOR US CAN ARISE EASIER THAN WE MAY THINK.

WE CAN SEE IN THE GOSPEL STORY AN EXAMPLE OF HOW WE OFTEN WANT GOD TO ACT ACCORDING TO OUR TIMETABLE.

HOWEVER, IN THIS STORY, JESUS WILL NOT BE HURRIED. EVEN WHEN TIME WAS OF THE ESSENCE, HE PAUSED AFTER BEING TOUCHED KNOWING A HEALING HAPPENED.

IN OUR LIVES, WHEN WE WANT THE LORD'S HELP, WE MAY ALSO WANT TO KEEP SOME CONTROL OVER GOD'S ACTIONS.

BUT BRINGING GOD INTO OUR CIRCUMSTANCES MEANS WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE LORD IS IN CONTROL NOT US OR ANYONE ELSE.

THIS CAN CREATE A STRUGGLE WITHIN US BETWEEN FAITH AND FEAR, HOPE AND DESPAIR.

WE MIGHT ALSO BE FEARFUL OF WHAT WILL HAPPEN OR HOW WE WILL COPE IF GOD SAYS "NO" TO OUR PRAYERS-OR EVEN 'NOT YET.'

A MEDITATION ON THE GOSPEL STORY POSES THE QUESTION THAT SUMMARIZES OUR WORRIES AND FEARS, WHICH MAY ARISE WITHIN US IN THE MIDST OF A CRISIS.

IT ASKS: "HOW OFTEN DO WE LOOK TO GOD IN PRAYER AND THEN LOOK TO OUR CIRCUMSTANCES AND LOSE HOPE OR FALTER IN FAITH?"

ANOTHER QUESTION IS HOW OFTEN DOES SOMETHING SIMILAR HAPPEN WHEN THE RESCUE WE PRAY FOR DOES NOT TAKE PLACE?

THERE IS A STORY ABOUT A THE EXPERIENCE OF A NAVY HELICOPTER PILOT, WHO WAS FLYING FROM LAND TO AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN.

WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM AND HOW HE RESPONDED, MAY OFFER US A HELPFUL PERSPECTIVE ON SUCH STRUGGLES.

HE SAID, "I WAS FLYING THE HELICOPTER BACK TO THE SHIP WHEN A BLINDING FOG ROLLED IN.

FLYING AT A LOW ALTITUDE, I KNEW THAT A SINGLE MISTAKE WOULD PLUNGE MY CREW AND ME INTO THE OCEAN.

WORSE YET, I WAS EXPERIENCING A COMPLETE LOSS OF BALANCE, WHICH IS COMMON FOR PILOTS FLYING BY INSTRUMENTS.

IT WAS SO BAD, THAT DESPITE THE INSTRUMENT READINGS, I WAS CERTAIN I WAS FLYING THE HELICOPTER SIDEWAYS.

FOR 15 MINUTES I FLEW THE HELICOPTER BY ITS INSTRUMENTS, FIGHTING THE URGE TO TURN IT ACCORDING TO MY FEELINGS.

WHEN WE FINALLY BROKE SAFELY THROUGH THE FOG, I WAS DEEPLY THANKFUL I HAD BEEN TRAINED TO RELY UPON MY INSTRUMENTS RATHER THAN ON MY FEELINGS."

SIMILARLY, WE ARE CALLED TO TRUST IN GOD EVEN WHEN OUR FEELINGS TELL US WE CANNOT DO SO.

HOLDING ON TO FAITH AND HOPE IN GOD CAN BE A CHALLENGE WHEN ALL THE EVIDENCE OF OUR EYES AND EARS AND FEELINGS FIGHTS AGAINST FAITH AND HOPE.

THIS IS FOUND IN TODAY'S GOSPEL STORY OF A MAN WHO WENT TO JESUS SEEKING HIS HELP TO HEAL HIS DAUGHTER

TRULY JAIRUS WAS A LOVING FATHER. HE PUT THE WELFARE OF HIS CHILD ABOVE HIS OWN STATUS, WHICH AT THE TIME WAS EXTRAORDINARY, ESPECIALLY FOR A DAUGHTER.

JAIRUS, YOU SEE HELD A POSITION OF HONOR AND RESPONSIBILITY IN HIS COMMUNITY, AS THE RULER OR PRESIDENT OF THE SYNAGOGUE.

HE WAS A LAYMAN WHO WAS IN CHARGE OF THE SACRED SCROLLS AND THE ORDER OF WORSHIP, AND MOST OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE NEEDS THAT WOULD ARISE.

AND YET HE PUBLICLY WENT TO JESUS AND KNELT AT HIS FEET PLEADING FOR HELP FOR HIS GRAVELY ILL DAUGHTER.

HE WAS A FATHER WHO PUT HIS HOPE IN JESUS AS ONE WHO WAS GIVEN POWER BY GOD TO HEAL.

AND HE WAS NOT TOO PROUD OR CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT OTHERS MIGHT THINK TO SHOW IT.

THIS WAS DEMONSTRATED BY THE FACT HE WENT HIMSELF INSTEAD OF SENDING A SERVANT OR FAMILY MEMBER OR NEIGHBOR TO JESUS.

IT COULD BE SAID ABOUT JAIRUS THAT HIS FAITH AND TRUST IN GOD BROUGHT JESUS INTO HIS HOME AND TO HIS CHILD.

AND JESUS IMMEDIATELY RESPONDED BY AGREEING TO GO TO THE CHILD. HOW RELIEVED JAIRUS MUST HAVE FELT.

SO OFF THEY WENT, JAIRUS, JESUS, THE TWELVE DISCIPLES, ALONG WITH THE CROWD SURROUNDING JESUS.

ONE WONDERS IF JAIRUS WOULD HAVE WANTED JESUS TO DISMISS THE CROWD, SINCE THEY SLOWED THEIR PROGRESS.

AND THEN, SOMEONE IN THE CROWD INTERRUPTED THE JOURNEY CAUSING JESUS TO STOP AND REFUSE TO CONTINUE UNTIL HE DEALT WITH THE SITUATION.

EVERY MOMENT IT TOOK FOR JESUS AND HIM TO WALK FROM WHERE JAIRUS MET HIM TO HIS HOME MUST HAVE BEEN CLOUDED WITH WORRY, AND THE DELAY MADE IT WORSE.

THEN THE WORST NEWS POSSIBLE CAME TO THE LOVING FATHER JUST AS JESUS AND THE CROWD WERE ABOUT TO CONTINUE ON TO HIS HOME.

“YOUR DAUGHTER IS DEAD; DO NOT TROUBLE THE TEACHER ANY LONGER.”

THERE ARE TWO MAIN PROBLEMS WITH THAT STATEMENT- THE FIRST IS WE DO NOT TROUBLE GOD WITH OUR PRAYERS.

THIS IS TRUE EVEN WHEN GOD HAS NO INTENTION OF ANSWERING US IN THE WAY WE DESIRE.

SCRIPTURE REMINDS US OVER AND OVER AGAIN GOD WELCOMES OUR INTERCESSORY PRAYERS, ALONG WITH OUR PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING.

THE LORD ALSO WELCOMES OUR CRIES OF DESPAIR AND GRIEF, THOSE THAT TAKE THE FORM OF COMPLAINT AND ONES SAID IN ANGER.

THEREFORE, WE DO NOT TROUBLE GOD WHEN WE PRAY- BECAUSE PRAYER IS AN INVITATION FOR GOD TO ACT IN OUR LIVES AND CIRCUMSTANCES-ACCORDING TO HIS WISDOM.

THE OTHER PROBLEM WITH THE STATEMENT ABOUT NOT TROUBLING JESUS BECAUSE THE CHILD WAS DEAD-IS THAT IT SUGGESTED JESUS COULD NOT OVERCOME DEATH.

WE KNOW THAT IS NOT TRUE, JESUS DID RAISE OTHERS FROM THE DEAD.

HE ALSO CONQUERED THE ETERNAL CONSEQUENCES OF SIN AND DEATH ON THE CROSS, AND BY HIS RESURRECTION.

AND SO, UPON HEARING THE TERRIBLE NEWS THAT CONFIRMED JAIRUS’ GREATEST FEAR FOR HIS DAUGHTER, JESUS SPOKE DIRECTLY TO THE GRIEVING FATHER.

THE SAVIOR TOLD JAIRUS- “DO NOT FEAR, ONLY BELIEVE AND SHE WILL BE SAVED.”

IN OTHER WORDS, HE WAS ASKED TO TRUST HIS CHILD INTO JESUS’ CARE AND TO HOLD ONTO THE FAITH THAT BROUGHT HIM TO JESUS IN THE FIRST PLACE.

THEN, THEY CONTINUE ON TO THE HOME AND IT WAS ONLY THERE JESUS SENT THE CROWD AWAY.

HE TOOK THREE OF HIS DISCIPLES INTO THE HOME, WHERE MOURNERS HAD GATHERED IN THE ROOM WHERE THE CHILD LAY.

IT IS VERY LIKELY MANY OF THE MOURNERS WERE PEOPLE HIRED BY THE FAMILY TO WEEP AND OTHERWISE EXPRESS GRIEF OVER THE LOSS.

THIS SOUNDS STRANGE TO US, BUT IT WAS CUSTOMARY IN JESUS’ TIME, AND A WAY FAMILIES WITH THE RESOURCES TO DO SO, SHOWED RESPECT FOR THE DECEASED.

NOT SURPRISINGLY WHEN JESUS SAID THE GIRL WAS SLEEPING, NOT PERMANENTLY DEAD. THEY MOCKED HIM.

AFTER ALL THEY WERE THERE TO DO A JOB AND IT WAS OBVIOUS, SHE WAS DEAD AND THEY WERE NEEDED. JESUS, OF COURSE, DISAGREED.

WHAT THE SAVIOR MEANT WAS THE SLEEP OF DEATH, A METAPHOR FOR BEING DEAD, WAS NOT INSURMOUNTABLE TO HIM.

HE COMMANDED EVERYONE BUT THE GIRL’S PARENTS AND HIS DISCIPLES TO LEAVE, AND THEN JESUS CALLED HER BACK INTO THE WORLD AGAIN.

WHAT A WONDEROUS RESULT THE FAMILY FOUND BY TRUSTING IN JESUS AND HIS PROMISES AND POWER.

OF COURSE, WE DO NOT ALWAYS EXPERIENCE SUCH A POSITIVE OUTCOME TO ALL OF OUR PRAYERS.

AND REMEMBER JAIRUS, HIS WIFE, AND DAUGHTER AND EVERYONE PRESENT EVENTUALLY DIED WITHOUT HAVING THEIR EARTHLY, PHYSICAL LIVES RESTORED.

CONSEQUENTLY, THEY ALL EXPERIENCED AT SOME POINT DISAPPOINTMENT AND GRIEF, FEAR, AND PRAYERS NOT ANSWERED IN THE WAY THEY DESIRED.

THIS IS A REMINDER ABOUT THE HOPE AND TRUST WE ARE CALLED TO HAVE AS PEOPLE OF FAITH. AS SCRIPTURES SAYS "IN LIFE AND IN DEATH, WE BELONG TO GOD.

JESUS CALLS US TO TRUST ALSO. EVEN THOUGH WE CANNOT SEE HIM IT DOES NOT MEAN WE ARE JUMPING BLINDLY INTO THE DARK.

IF WE LISTEN, WE WILL HEAR HIS VOICE IN SCRIPTURE AND THROUGH THE SPIRIT WITHIN US.

WE CAN TRUST THE LORD CAN STILL DEMONSTRATE HIS POWER OVER DISEASE AND EVEN DEATH, AND HE CALLS US TO PUT OUR FAITH, IN HIM SO THAT WE MIGHT BE SAVED.

THERE IS A STORY I FOUND ONLINE THAT ILLUSTRATES THIS: "ONE NIGHT A HOUSE CAUGHT FIRE AND A YOUNG BOY WAS FORCED TO FLEE TO THE ROOF.

THE FATHER STOOD ON THE GROUND BELOW WITH OUTSTRETCHED ARMS, CALLING TO HIS SON, "JUMP! I'LL CATCH YOU."

HE KNEW THE BOY HAD TO JUMP TO SAVE HIS LIFE. ALL THE BOY COULD SEE, HOWEVER, WAS FLAME, SMOKE, AND BLACKNESS, THEREFORE HE WAS AFRAID TO LEAVE THE ROOF.

HIS FATHER KEPT YELLING: "JUMP! I WILL CATCH YOU." BUT HE PROTESTED, "DADDY, I CAN'T SEE YOU." THE FATHER REPLIED, "BUT I CAN SEE YOU AND THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS."

HERE WE ARE CHALLENGED AND ENCOURAGED TO FIGHT AGAINST OUR FEARS AND ACT IN FAITH, TRUSTING GOD TO CATCH US NO MATTER WHAT THE OUTCOME OF OUR PRAYERS MAY BE.

AS PHILIPPIANS 1:6 ENCOURAGES US: "AND I AM SURE OF THIS, THAT HE WHO BEGAN A GOOD WORK IN YOU WILL BRING IT TO COMPLETION AT THE DAY OF JESUS CHRIST."

AND HEBREWS 10:35-36 COUNCILS CHRISTIANS: "THEREFORE DO NOT THROW AWAY YOUR CONFIDENCE, WHICH HAS A GREAT REWARD.

FOR YOU HAVE NEED OF ENDURANCE, SO THAT WHEN YOU HAVE DONE THE WILL OF GOD YOU MAY RECEIVE WHAT IS PROMISED."

THESE ARE JUST TWO EXAMPLES OF THE MANY WAYS WE ARE CALLED TO PUT OUR TRUST IN THE LORD.

THE IMPORTANT THING TO REMEMBER IS TO TRUST THAT GOD SEES US ALL THE TIME AND HAS NOT ABANDONED US.

EVEN IF WE ARE IN A HOPELESS SITUATION GOD IS WATCHING OVER US, AND IN HIM OUR HOPE IS NOT IN VAIN.

LISTEN AGAIN TO THE MESSAGE OF PSALM 43:5- "WHY ARE YOU CAST DOWN, O MY SOUL, AND WHY ARE YOU IN TURMOIL WITHIN ME?

HOPE IN GOD; FOR I SHALL AGAIN PRAISE HIM, MY HELP AND MY GOD."

LET US PRAY: HEAVENLY FATHER, WE GIVE YOU THANKS FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS AND LOVE FOR US. HELP US TO TRUST THAT YOU ARE ALWAYS AWARE OF US AND WELCOME OUR PRAYERS FOR HELP AS MUCH AS OUR THANKS AND PRAISE.

TEACH US TO TRUST IN YOU DAILY AND TO TRUST THAT EVEN WHEN WE DO NOT FEEL YOUR PRESENCE YOU SEE US AND WILL NEVER ABANDON US. GLORY BE TO YOU O GOD, FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN

SERMON SUMMARY- LUKE 8:40-56

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THERE ARE TOO MAIN PROBLEMS WITH THAT STATEMENT- THE FIRST IS WE DO NOT TROUBLE GOD WITH OUR PRAYERS OF ANY KIND. THE OTHER PROBLEM WITH THE STATEMENT ABOUT NOT TROUBLING JESUS BECAUSE THE CHILD WAS DEAD-IS THAT IT SUGGESTED JESUS COULD NOT OVERCOME DEATH. WE KNOW THAT IS NOT TRUE, JESUS DID RAISE OTHERS FROM THE DEAD. HE ALSO CONQUERED SIN AND DEATH ON THE CROSS AND BY HIS RESURRECTION.

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