

## LESSONS FROM JAIRUS - CAROLINE KIRN

I don't know about you, but I really dislike delays. Yesterday I popped to the mall and I waited forever in queues just to get inside the stores because of covid. But it got me thinking about delays. One of the reasons I hate delays is because I'm so preoccupied with where I need to be, what I need to do. It's not just these material delays that bother us, I think there are also spiritual delays that bother us. If we are really honest, we can sometimes feel like God is delaying. Perhaps you have been praying for something for years and you just have no answer. Or maybe you have been sowing faithfully into something and it just feels like God is delaying. Maybe you are asking yourself, 'where is God in our waiting? Why is He delaying?'

There is this amazing encounter in the Gospels that I am going to share with you. A man called Jairus comes to Jesus and he falls at Jesus' feet and he says, "Jesus my daughter, my only child, is so ill she is about to die. I need you to come to my home. I need you to heal her. I need you to work a miracle in my life."

So Jesus goes along with Jairus. On the way, Jesus and his disciples and Jairus encounter this large crowd. In the crowd is a woman. A woman who for twelve years has suffered from severe hemorrhage. She reaches out and she touches the edge of Jesus' clothes and instantly she is healed. So Jesus stops. He's aware of what's happened and he says, "Somebody touched Me." His disciples look at Him, they look at the crowd and think, anyone could have touched You! It's a huge crowd. But Jesus persists and He is determined to find this woman.

In the meantime, I can imagine that Jairus is starting to panic. I can feel his anguish, his desperation. He's probably thinking, Jesus, it doesn't matter about this crowd, it doesn't matter about this person who touched You. I need You to come to my home now. I need You to heal my daughter. I need You to work this miracle in my life right now.

I wonder if Jairus even noticed the miracle that happened right then and there. I think many of us are like that as well. We are so focused on the miracles that we need Jesus to work in our lives, that we don't notice the daily miracles that he is working right before us. We are completely blind to them because we are so focused on what we need Jesus to do in our lives.

The story continues and Jesus eventually finds this woman and has this really personal encounter with her. But while this is all happening a messenger from Jairus' home finds him in the crowd and says "I'm so sorry, your daughter has died. Don't bother Jesus any more." You can feel Jairus' heartbreak. He must have thought, "if only Jesus hadn't delayed, none of this would have happened."

Many of us experience delay in our lives and we have that same attitude of the messenger: "Why bother with God anymore?" I was praying, I was pleading with God, I was holding out desperately for Him to heal my marriage, to give me a child, to work a miracle in my finances and He didn't come through, so why bother with Him at all?"

Jesus overhears the messenger talking to Jairus and He looks at Jairus and says, "Don't be afraid, just keep believing." I think this morning, Jesus wants to say that to some of us. Where you have given up hope and you have given up on God altogether, He wants to say, "Don't give up, don't despair, just keep on believing."

The story ends with Jesus going to Jairus' home and speaking to his daughter and restoring life to her. It's a beautiful account of how Jesus responds to the faith of these two people. But more than that I think it is a story where we can learn that Jesus is at work in the delay. I want to encourage you this morning, if all you can see is the delay in your life where Jesus hasn't worked a miracle, take hope, He is working in the delay. Maybe let's not be so focused on the miracles that we need Jesus to work in our lives, that we are blind to the ones He's working every single day.