

Collision

Week 5: When Despair Collides with Hope

Objective: To encourage us to hope and trust in Jesus because he is still working, even when we can't see it.

ICEBREAKER

Who is someone you know that always has to have the last word?

- What makes that frustrating (or sometimes amusing)?
- Why do we care so much about “the last word”?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Understanding Despair

The sermon defined despair as:

“The settled belief that what is broken cannot be redeemed, what is lost cannot be restored, and what is dead cannot live again.”

- Which part of that definition stands out to you most?
- Where do people commonly experience despair in life?
- Why does despair feel so final?

2. Desperation Reaches for Hope

Both Jairus and the woman acted out of desperation.

- What do their actions reveal about desperation?
- Have you ever been in a place where you were willing to do anything for hope?
- Why does desperation sometimes push people toward Jesus?

3. When Hope Is Delayed

We said: *Delayed hope is not defeated hope.*

- Why is waiting so difficult?
- How have you experienced “delayed hope” in your own life?
- What lies are we tempted to believe when answers don't come quickly?

4. Two Different Journeys

Jairus and the woman had very different situations—but the same need.

- What differences do you see between their stories?
- What similarities do you see?
- What does this tell us about how Jesus meets people?

5. Jesus and the “Final Word”

When Jairus hears, *“Your daughter is dead... why bother?”* Jesus responds, *“Don't be afraid; just believe.”*

- Why is that moment so powerful?
- What does it reveal about how Jesus responds to despair?
- What does it look like to trust Jesus when circumstances say it's “too late”?

6. Ignoring Despair's Voice

The sermon pointed out that Jesus essentially *disregarded* the message of despair.

- What “voices” of despair do people hear today?
- How can we learn to not give those voices the final word?
- What helps you hold onto hope when everything says otherwise?

7. Resurrection Power

Jesus raises Jairus' daughter—pointing forward to His own resurrection.

- Why is the resurrection central to our hope?
- How does it change the way we view brokenness, loss, and even death?
- What would it look like to truly live as if hope has the final word?



8. Your Next Step

Bring it home personally.

- Where in your life does despair feel like it's winning?
- What are you currently waiting on God for?
- What would it look like for you to keep trusting this week?

FINAL THOUGHT

Despair says, "It's over." Jesus says, "Not yet." The resurrection proves that what looks final is not final. Hope has the last word—not because life is easy, but because Jesus is alive.

THIS WEEK – HOLD ON TO HOPE

Take a step this week to live in hope:

1. NAME IT

- Identify where despair is trying to take the final word in your life

2. WAIT

- Choose patience over panic
- Trust that delay is not defeat

3. TRUST

- Remind yourself daily: *God is still working—even when I can't see it*

4. REMEMBER

- The resurrection means your story isn't finished yet

Ask yourself each day:

- Am I letting despair speak last—or am I trusting Jesus to?

