

What Are You Doing?

Mark 5:21-24, 35-43

- Do you ever question God?
- Be honest; in the moments when things just don't seem right, when the pain gets to be too much, when you are at the end of your rope, do you wonder, "God, what are you doing?"
- The man we look at this morning surely had plenty of reasons to ask that question.
- As we look at the events of Jairus, his deathly sick daughter, and Jesus, we are going to try to answer that question to some degree.
- Since God is God, we will never fully understand what he is doing at any moment, but this story helps us answer three specific aspects of the question of what God is up to.
- We're going to find these answers by asking three additional questions this morning and finding their answers in this text.
- If you have a Bible, open it up to **Mark 5:21-24, 35-43**.

- We took a break last week with Father's Day, but we are now diving back into a study we have been going through for several months.
- We are walking through the book of Mark, taking a good look at what the Bible actually teaches us about Jesus.
- In this section of Mark, Jesus is demonstrating how God's power works in the midst of our pain.

- We started this particular story a couple of weeks ago, but we got interrupted from finishing it.
- First, if you were with us, you know that the story itself is interrupted.

- Let's try to get a sense of the story, and then we'll go back and spend some time talking about what it means to us.
- Read with me, starting in **verses 21-24**.
- We then have the interruption we looked at two weeks ago. In the middle of Jesus' heading to Jairus' house, he gets stopped by a woman who needed him to heal her.
- He is moved by her genuine, desperate, reckless faith, and he heals her.
- However, that interrupts everything going on with Jairus, and that delay has disastrous consequences.
- Jump down to **verse 35**.
- I can barely fathom the flood of emotions going through Jairus' heart at that moment.
- I imagine he went numb from the shock.
- He tried. He did everything a dad could do, and then this woman interrupted him, and now his daughter is dead.
- Jairus doesn't have to wrestle with hit long, though.
- Pick back up in **verse 35-43**.
- This incredible account of Jesus, Jairus, and his daughter, gives us some powerful insight into the answer of the question we asked – "God, what are you doing?".
- We are going to find those answers by asking three questions that are under the surface of that main question we ask.
- **Our first question to answer is...**

1) When are you going to do something?

- Isn't that one of our biggest questions when things aren't going right?

- Situations go from bad to worse, and there doesn't seem to be a light at the end of the tunnel, and if there is one, it is probably a train.
 - That's where Jairus starts in this story.
 - As a synagogue official, he would have been a well-respected man who probably had pretty strong financial resources.
 - I am sure they tried every doctor, every cure, everything they could think of to help his daughter, and none of it work.
 - She kept getting sicker and sicker until now, it looks like she is going to die.
 - Jairus has heard of Jesus, possibly even seen him before, and so he puts it all on the line to see if Jesus can help.
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- At first, it looks like God is doing something, right?
 - Jesus sets out to Jairus' house.
 - Can you imagine the hope that would give you?
 - It's going to be alright! Jesus is going to come heal her.
 - But wait...suddenly, the whole crowd stops, and Jesus has this interaction with this woman.
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- Can you imagine being Jairus at that moment?
 - If it had been me, I probably would have pushed through and grabbed Jesus and said, "Come on, let's go...my daughter is about to die!"
 - The woman Jesus healed wasn't on death's door, but Jesus stopped.
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- By the time they got to his house, it was too late.
 - How devastated would you be?
 - You tried, Jesus was on the way, and now she's dead because of that delay!

- You would feel like the rug got ripped out from underneath you.
- There's a verse in the Bible, in the book of Proverbs, that says, *Hope delayed makes the heart sick, but desire fulfilled is a tree of life. (Proverbs 13:12, CSB)*
- That's what happens to Jairus, isn't it? He had this hope that Jesus was going to heal his daughter and make it all okay, and then all of a sudden, that hope is gone.
- Has that happened to you? Maybe you feel like you are there right now.
- You feel like God isn't coming through, he isn't working, he doesn't care.
- Let this story show you that nothing could be farther from the truth.
- Here's the reality: God's timetable is completely different than ours.
- We like to think we are smart and can figure everything out, but we really have no idea how the events in our life will ultimately plan out, what will come of any particular event, or what is going to happen tomorrow.
- God knows all of those things, though, so that means he is going to move when it is the right time.
- In the movie version of "The Fellowship of the Ring", Gandalf says, *"A wizard is never late, nor is he early, he arrives precisely when he means to."*
- That is a terrible analogy, because God isn't just some supreme wizard, but the principle still stands.
- God is exactly on time, every time.

- To answer our question then, we have to say that God is going to do something when the time is right.
- “Sean, that’s not super comforting. I want that time to be right now.”
- I know you do, and I do to. However, the God who knows better than you or I ever could says, “Now is not the time.”
- Here’s how God described himself:

Remember what happened long ago, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and no one is like me. I declare the end from the beginning, and from long ago what is not yet done, saying: my plan will take place, and I will do all my will.
(Isaiah 46:9–10, CSB)
- He can tell you how it is going to end, his plan will take place, and he will accomplish what he sets out to do.
- “God, what are you doing? When are you going to do something?”
- When the time is right.
- That’s why you need to do what Jesus said in **verse 36**...just believe.
- **Let’s ask another part of this question:**

2) Do you understand what’s wrong?

- That’s the accusation that those around Jairus make, isn’t it?
- Go back to **verse 37-40**.
- There was quite a commotion.
- In those days, it was common to hire professional mourners.
- As strange as that seems to us, it actually made sense.

- By having people there who were already expressing the pain and emotion of the death, it would free the family to express their emotions.
 - You wouldn't find yourself crying alone, so you wouldn't be tempted to hide it.
 - It actually could be healthy to create space for those emotions.
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- These people weren't always the best, though, as they are about to demonstrate.
 - When he gets to the house, Jesus makes what seems to be a ludicrous statement in **verse 39**.
 - Don't misunderstand what Jesus is doing here. He isn't saying that she isn't dead; not even that she was just "mostly dead" for you *Princess Bride* fans in the room.
 - He is implying that, although she was completely dead, this wasn't the end of her story, and she would wake up just like she was asleep.
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- How did the people respond?
 - They laughed at Jesus.
 - Can I just tell you that it is never a good idea to laugh at God when he says something?
 - We have a few examples of that in the Bible, and it is never a good thing.
 - In this case, these people were shut out and didn't get a chance to see the miracle first-hand.
 - Jesus may not have let them anyway, but he certainly didn't with that attitude.
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- They didn't think Jesus was really aware of what was going on.
 - They thought he missed it somewhere.

- Do you ever feel like that?
 - Do you feel like God has somehow missed what is going on in your life, that you somehow slipped through the cracks, and he just doesn't understand?
 - Maybe it seems like the Bible says something about your problem, but it doesn't make a lot of sense; it seems to harsh or to simplistic.
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- Can I challenge you to trust that God knows what he is talking about?
 - A few minutes ago, we said that God knows and can tell you how something plays out before it even begins.
 - Doesn't that mean that he knows every detail of your situation?
 - Once, when Jesus was talking about people hating you for following Jesus, he pointed this out:

Aren't two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's consent. But even the hairs of your head have all been counted. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. (Matthew 10:29-31, CSB)
 - If he knows how many hairs are on your head, then doesn't he know every bigger detail about you life?
 - So then, the answer to our second question is a resounding yes!
 - God knows exactly what is going on, and is more aware of it than you are.
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- **That leads to the last question, which is perhaps the most important:**

3) Can you do anything about it?

- It's no good if you show up at the right time, understand what is going on, but don't have any ability to help.
- Recently, I drove around a curve and saw a couple of cars where they shouldn't have been and a cyclist on the side of the road.
- There was already a group of people around him, standing and attending to his needs.
- I was tempted to pull over, but it dawned on me: I have no real first aid or medical training at all.
- There was a group of people there to help, and I was only going to get in the way if I pulled over.
- I don't know if he got clipped by one of the cars or what, but even if I did, I have no ability to help.
- I could have been there at the right time, known what was going on, and still been useless.

- Isn't it great that God isn't that way?
- Jesus showed up at exactly the right time to do an incredible miracle. He knew exactly what was going on, but unlike me with the cyclist, he had the ability to do something.
- Go back to **verses 40-43**.

- Do you ever wonder if God can do anything about the situation you're in?
- You're in too deep, it's too messy, it's going to be too painful to get out of it.
- Jesus proves here that God is able to do anything.
- He brought a little girl back to life by simply speaking to her.
- Side note: did you notice how much she recovered instantly?
- From deathly ill to dead, to walking around and hungry.

- From what we see here, Jesus instantly, in two words, eradicated every trace of that fatal disease.
- If he can do that, what can't he do in your life?
- That doesn't mean that if you surrender to Christ, he is automatically going to fix every problem you face.
- However, it does mean that he is able to work in any situation for your good and his glory.
- If he doesn't heal, if he doesn't provide, then he has something better in store for you.
- It isn't a matter of if he is able, it is a matter of if he is willing!
- God, what are you doing?
- He is working exactly when he needs to, fully aware of what needs to happen, and fully capable of seeing it through.
- What situation in your life is making you doubt that?
- Why don't you take time this morning to trust him?
- If you have never turned to trusting Jesus as your Savior, then let me encourage you about this: God has already answered these questions about your greatest need.
- You see, the Bible that our greatest need is to be saved from our sin, which separates us from God.
- When the time was right, God sent his son to save us:

When the time came to completion, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. (Galatians 4:4-5, CSB)
- He was fully aware of the need, knowing that our choice to choose our own way had broken our relationship with him, and because of that, we would spend eternity separated from him.

- So, what did he do about it?
- He died in our place, taking our sin from us. He rose from the dead, offering his life to anyone who would turn from their sin and turn to following Jesus.
- Are you willing to do that today?