

They say in a perfect world:

Cream Cakes would have no calories;

Chocolate would be considered a vegetable;

Men would go through labour;

a Cat burglar would break into your home – but only steal your cat; and

Children would always close the door quietly behind them, so that eventually Parent's would say "no what the heck! - go back and give it a good slam!;

That would be perfect ☺

But we don't live in a perfect world

We live in a world where People hurt and Storms happen and things go wrong.

So for the last 3 weeks we've been looking at how Jesus impacts those realities.

Someone comes to Jesus for healing - but first he takes them deeper and heals their soul (their broken relationship with God);

The disciples are caught in a Storm - they think Jesus doesn't care, but he drives them deeper:

to show them that he DOES care and

that he has the power to save them from anything in the whole cosmos.

People are arguing about what it means 'to rest' - Jesus says come to me and I'll give you perfect rest.

To every storm, hurt and frustration – Jesus says come to me and I will lead you through it.

Well, tonight is no different.

Two people come to Jesus – and he takes them deeper

One into a living relationship with Him;

the other into a new confidence in him.

Tonight is about patience when life sucks,

when God seems to be taking his time

when God seems to be doing things that don't make sense.

Patience is difficult.

it means bearing with suffering without becoming bitter,

it means waiting without apportioning blame,

it means hoping without getting angry.

Patience is difficult

We lose patience when we are **afraid**, when we are **frustrated**, when we are **hurting**.

Put me in any of those positions (if I am fearful, frustrated or hurting) and lose patience too quickly!

Tonight we see a man who goes through all these emotions:

And his encounter with Jesus shows him that

- God's Timing calls for Trust
- His Trust takes him deeper into God; and
- God's Depths gives more than he could have hoped for

And that's how it is for us

God's Timing calls for Trust;

Our Trust takes us deeper into God;

God's Depths gives us more than we could hope for

Let me show you what I mean.

Would you turn with me to Mark chapter 5

1. God's Timing calls for Trust.

v21 When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake.

Then one of the synagogue rulers, named Jairus, came there.

Seeing Jesus, he fell at his feet. . . .

Mark says Jairus is a religious man, a ruler in the synagogue, a man devoted to God – who is desperate.

v22 Seeing Jesus, he fell at his feet and pleaded earnestly with him,

“My little daughter is dying, Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live”.

His little girl is dying.

Not just sick – but dying

and unless Jesus comes – she is dead.

He is rich, he is educated, he has contacts...

You can bet your bottom dollar that he has done everything to get his little girl well.

He would have employed the best doctors, herbalists, acupuncturists, homeopaths – you name it no stone unturned – and nothing worked.

He falls at Jesus' feet, he pleads for him to come, he is desperate.

v24 So Jesus went with him.

And at this point Jairus is both relieved and frightened...

He is full of hope that Jesus was coming /

full of fear that they might be too late.

So they went, followed by

v24 A large crowd which pressed around them.

*And a woman **was there** who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years.*

OK so now the focus of the story changes,

the spot-light falls upon someone else

In the midst of this urgent plot-line there is an interruption

another character appears ...

v26 She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse.

She too was growing worse

She too had tried everything the world had to offer;

And everything the world had to offer was powerless to meet her need:

not only had they failed to make her better

but she had actually got worse.

v27 When she heard about Jesus,

she came up behind him and touched his cloak,

because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed."

Immediately her bleeding stopped and

she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him...

The crowd is pressing in on Jesus,

this woman is hidden in the crowd,
anonymously she touches him and she is healed, and
we read that Jesus, realising that power had gone out from him,
stops the entourage, halts the emergency procession, and turns around and says,
v30 "Who touched my clothes?"

And the disciple say:

*"You see the people crowding **against** you, How can you ask, 'Who touched you?'"*

*But Jesus **kept looking** around to see who had done it.*

He kept looking,
he delayed,
he kept asking/looking/searching.
he took his time.

Now all the focus of the story has moved away from Jairus – to this woman.

Jairus is on the edge,
He doesn't have Jesus' attention
He (and his needs seem) almost forgotten here!

*v33 Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her,
came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, she told him the **whole truth**.*

When Jesus finds the woman,
He gets her to tell him "the whole truth,"
the whole story.
Take me from the beginning, he said
Tell me your story...
I'm interested in you...

Now hold it there, let me ask you –
How is Jairus feeling at the moment?
When the procession stops?;
When Jesus asks the daft question who touched me?
(Jairus doesn't know about this woman!)
When Jesus says – tell me your whole story....

Is he Afraid? – afraid that his daughter might die any minute now?
Is he Frustrated? – That Jesus has got his priorities wrong – my little girl is dying?!
Is he Hurting? – because he has just been bumped down the priority queue? **Absolutely!**

Surely Jesus is getting this wrong!
- this woman has been ill for 12 years, surely (and I don't want to sound heartless here), but surely, another few
hours won't make any difference!
- she's BEEN cured - why do you need to find her?
- why does she have to tell you her **whole** story!

This makes NO sense!
Jesus your timing sucks,
Jesus you're acting as if you don't you care?
Jesus. Hurry!

But Jesus doesn't hurry.
v35 for while Jesus was still speaking,

the very thing that Jairus feared all along happens:

some men came from his house.

And said "Your daughter is dead, why bother the teacher anymore?"

Now imagine how Jairus feels about his faith in Jesus at this moment.

But

v36 Ignoring what they said, Jesus told him, "Don't be afraid, just believe."

There you go... **"Don't be afraid, just believe."**

In essence,

Trust me, believe in me, it is not too late.

Time is relative to every culture,

urgency depends on how we see the situation.

Everyone has a different sense of time.

*Picture a wedding where the **groom** is expected to be 30 minutes late,*

Now imagine the bride is from a culture that expects him to be 30 minutes early!

She and her bridesmaids are on time but the groom is no-where to be seen.

On the left-hand side of the church there's hand-wringing and worried glances.

On the right side, everybody's relaxed.

Why?

because timing is relative.

Everybody has a sense of "this is the right time - but this is too late"

God's sense of timing will always confound ours,

no matter what culture we're from.

His grace rarely operates according to our time-schedule.

When Jesus looks at Jairus and says "Trust me"

But he is **really** looking at us and saying,

Remember last week, remember the storm?

Did I not show you that my love IS **compatible** with you going through storms?

Even though you didn't think so – I showed you it was...

Well, now I'm telling you that my love IS also compatible with what may seem to you unconscionable, unreasonable, frustrating delays.

And if we try to impose our understanding of TIMING on Jesus,

then you WILL struggle to feel loved by him,

'you will doubt' he knows what he's doing.

Look Jesus will not be hurried by Jairus or by Us

God calls us to trust, to be patient,

to say 'even though through my eyes your delay is irrational – I **will** trust you.

Look I don't know what you are facing,

I don't know what God is late on delivering,

But I do know that even though we may be fearful, and frustrated and hurting

Jesus says to us "Trust me, believe in me, it is not too late".

That's the first point. Will you do that?

and then, secondly,

2) Let Your Trust drive you Deeper into God.

For he will take your trust/your faith **and he will grow it.**

The only way to learn patience is to be in a place where we need to exercise it!

When I was writing a sermon a few years ago,

some children we're playing in the back-garden and they were swinging on the gate, and it was going "clang, clang, clang"

and I was getting more and more wound up!

*And its really **not possible** to write a sermon when you're wound up!*

So eventually I prayed

Lord God I need help here –

would you mind getting those children to stop making such a noise.

And no sooner had I prayed that –

than the clanging stopped,

I held my breath, I waited for a while, all was quiet

So I said

"thank you Lord! – And Lord, would you please teach me patience" –

and as soon as I said that

the gate went "Clang, clang, clang"

and I realised that God has a sense of humour.

The only way to learn patience is to be put in a place where you need to exercise it!

And then the only way to grow our faith is for God to get us to exercise it – by asking more than we were planning to give.

Take Jairus,

he came thinking he would have to trust Jesus just enough to get home, hoping that somehow his girl wouldn't die before they arrived.

But Jesus demands something far more from him.

Jesus delays,

Jesus seems to forget about him

Jesus seems to heal others while his girl is waiting

Jesus then demands **even more** from him

Because *while he is waiting* his child dies.

And its at this point – when his faith is stretched to breaking point

That Jesus turns around and says "Trust me. believe in me, it is not too late"!

Now, that is faith far beyond anything that Jairus had anticipated.

Jesus takes Jairus, drives him deeper into God and grows his faith.

Or take the sick woman.

She came to Jesus for healing.

But she wanted just to 'touch' and run away.

She wanted to say,

I'm willing to reach out but that's as far as my faith will take me

I am NOT willing to make a public spectacle of myself,

I am not willing to embarrass myself

I am not will to tell my whole life story to a whole bunch of strangers, I'd really rather remain anonymous and disappear back into the crowd

But Jesus wouldn't have it.

Jesus looks for her and calls for her to go public with her faith!

This is very difficult

She has been coping with a menstrual or uterine disorder for 12 years

This would have been embarrassing and

it would have made her ceremonially unclean and

it would have made Jesus ceremonially unclean too.

And therefore Jesus' request that she identify herself

requires **way more** trust than she was originally planning to give.

The reality is that if you would encounter Jesus more deeply,

if we would have our faith grow

if would have our trust deepened

then Jesus is going to call us to exercise it far more than we had originally bargained for

And "in the moment" when that happens

that's when we need to recognise Jesus' words are for us

"do not be afraid, just believe"

"do not be afraid just believe"

That's the reality of it.

Look I don't know what you are facing

I don't know what God is late on delivering

But I do know that even though we are fearful and are frustrated and hurting

Jesus calls us

one - to trust in him

two – to give **him** more than we had planned, to go deeper...

because, three

3. God's Depths give US more than we could hope for

If we go to Jesus he may ask of us more than we had originally planned to give,

but then, he will give us much more back than we had dared to ask.

3.1 He gives this woman more than she sought.

He gets her to identify herself

He takes this somewhat superstitious understanding of Jesus' power.

And turns it into a personal relationship.

v33 Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth.

He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."

She enters thinking its all **magic**... if I just touch him

She leaves knowing it is all **faith**.

She comes looking for healing for now and a new life of 30 years
She leaves knowing her healing is forever and a new life for eternity.

She is known by Jesus
She knows him
She'll follow now for the rest of her life.
He gives her more...

3.2 He gives Jairus more too

Even though the little girl is dead,
Jesus looks at the Father and says, "I'm coming anyway."

*v37 He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James.
When they came to the home of the synagogue ruler,
Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly.
He went in and said to them, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep." But they
laughed at him.*

*After he put them all out, he took the child's father, mother and the disciples who were with him,
and went in where the child was.
He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha koum!"
which means, "Little girl, I say to 'you, getup!."
Immediately the girl stood up and walked around (she was twelve years old).
At this they were completely astonished.*

Jairus had come to Jesus for a cure for a fever and
Jesus gives him a resurrection.

Only 5 verses earlier

Jairus would have been impatient with God because he was afraid.

Afraid - Yet Jesus uses this intimate, diminutive word
Talitha –
it means "little girl,"
it means "my child"
it means "honey"

Talitha Koum – "honey - time to get up"
NOT "HUMAN Be resurrected";
Just "Honey, it's time to get up."

Jesus faces death, the coldest, most implacable enemy of humanity
and such is his power that all he needs to say is
"Honey, it's time to get up."
Jairus is impatient with Jesus because he was afraid.
Jesus will never leave you – he is right by you – he is close –
do not be afraid.

Jairus would have been impatient with God because he was frustrated.

Jesus was behaving in a way that seemed almost unforgivable, irrational
but then Jairus didn't know what Jesus knew.
He couldn't see around the corner.

It is the same with us –
if God seems to be delaying and getting it wrong,
it is because we don't see it all,
we don't have it all,
we don't know it all
and we can't see around the corner.
“do not be frustrated, just trust”.

And
Jairus would have been impatient with God because he was hurting.

But then see the care Jesus shows this child
He sat by the child and took her by the hand.

There is a gentleness and intimacy here that is staggering
This is the Creator of the universe who in a single word can
heal a man, calm a storm and bring resurrection.

It is the same with us –
if God seems to be delaying and getting it wrong, God knows what he is doing. He knows your pain.

The Queen Mother once gave her husband King George VI
a poem by Minnie Louise Haskins entitled “God Knows”.

He read part of it out over the radio at the beginning of the Second World War
He spoke to a Nation, fearful and hurting
The poem reads like this...

God knows.

*And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.
And he replied:
Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way*

*So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.
And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.
So heart be still:
What need our little life
Our human life to know,
If God hath comprehension?*

*In all the dizzy strife
Of things both high and low,
God hideth His intention.*

*God knows. His will Is best.
The stretch of years
Which wind ahead, so dim to our imperfect vision,
Are clear to God.
Our fears are premature;*

In Him, ALL time hath full provision.

In him, in Jesus – ALL TIME – his time, his frustrating time, his seemingly irrational time – will find you fulfilled more than you could ever ask.

Paul said “cast all your anxieties on the Lord –
in the intimacy of your time alone with God,
when you close the door and bar all distractions,
when you take him by the hand
“cast all your anxieties on the Lord – for he cares for you”.