

Sermon Series: Spurred on to Holiness (and Power) by Immersing Ourselves into the Life of Christ Through the Eyes of the Apostles – A Harmony of All Four Gospels

Sermon Title: Parental Faith

November 3, 2019

Today's Scripture: See insert

Introduction:

Main point: As parents, there should be no limit to the size and scope of our prayers for our children. God is in the business of displaying His power for His glory and for the sake of His name.

Context:

Exegesis:

1. Don't let doubters who lack faith, crush yours. *While he was yet speaking, there came some from the home of the synagogue official. 3 One of them said to him, "Your daughter has died; trouble not the Teacher 2 further."*
 - Relatives or friends of Jairus had decided that once the little girl had stopped breathing that it was pointless to ask for a greater miracle than healing.
 - The very fact that Jesus got up from his sitting position (as a teacher) to heal the young girl should have been enough for Jairus to know that his daughter was going to be O.K.
 - Can you imagine however, your reaction when the messengers came to tell him she stopped breathing and her heart stopped beating? Your first thought would be it's over. She's gone. All hope is lost.
 - Peter had a similar experience in *Matthew 14:28–31 [28] And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." [29] He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. [30] But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." [31] Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" (ESV)* The Lord had already told him to leave the boat. Yet the waves seem to overpower that initial confidence and he started sinking.
 - How many times in our lives do we embark on a mission knowing Christ has instructed us to go, even if it is to bring a dish to an ailing neighbor and share the gospel and something, even a thought, or an unbelieving spouse drives up and you change your mind?
 - As Baptists, we have been guilty of limiting God. Perhaps it has been a former pastor, or Bible college professor, or a book or John MacArthur telling you that the miraculous gifts of the Spirit have ceased. Don't let them crush your faith.
2. Jesus graciously reiterated the previous promise to Jairus and often does so for us. *But Jesus,*

having heard ² the word that was spoken, said to the official of the synagogue, “Fear not, only believe, ³ and she shall be restored.”

- Remember Gideon’s two fleeces? Did God get angry when Gideon asked for confirmation? NO! God obliged. *Judges 6:39–40 [39] Then Gideon said to God, “Let not your anger burn against me; let me speak just once more. Please let me test just once more with the fleece. Please let it be dry on the fleece only, and on all the ground let there be dew.” [40] And God did so that night; and it was dry on the fleece only, and on all the ground there was dew. (ESV)*
 - Remember Moses’ hesitation. God was patient, to a point.
 - It is O.K. to seek confirmation that what we think God is asking us to do is really from him and not ourselves or even a demon. Today we use Scripture to confirm. Does God want you to deliver that meal and witness? YES, since he commanded it be done in Matthew 28. Is this fit with God’s character, and are other Christians giving you the green light?
 - But, like Moses, there comes a point where God’s patience runs out and he gets upset with our disobedience. Don’t push him.
3. Jesus respected the couple’s privacy, and dignity by limiting the number of people in the home to just a few (and not making this seem like a circus). *And he allowed no one to go along with him but Peter and James and James’ brother John.*
- This is the first time that the three are mentioned as an inner circle. The purpose of this inner circle of disciples was to provide leadership for the rest.
4. Jesus instructs us (and the crowd) that believers don’t die. *So he came to the home of the synagogue official, and beheld ¹ the flute players and the crowd making a tumult, ² weeping and wailing greatly ³ and beating their breasts for her. ² And when he had gone in, he said to them, ¹ “Off with you! ² Why make a tumult and weep? ³ Weep not ¹ for the maiden did not die but is sleeping.” ³ And with scorn they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead.*
- *John 11:26 [26] and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” (ESV)*
 - This is a clue to me that the age of accountability is 13. This girl was raised in a Judaistic home where works gets one to heaven. There is no indication she was a believer in Jesus, yet Jesus said she is simply asleep . . .
5. The God who “spoke” the universe into existence demonstrated the power of His spoken word. *But when he had put them all out, he took the father of the maiden, and the mother, and those who were with him, and went in where the child was lying. ³ And taking her by the hand, he called ² to her, ³ saying ² “Talitha cumi” (that is, “I say to you maiden, arise”).*
- That same power of the spoken word is delegated to His disciples and to us today.
 - *John 12:49 For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. (ESV)*
 - *Acts 16:18 And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour. (ESV)*
 - A dear friend in Portland was dying of cancer. He urgently requested the staff at church

to issue a command to the cancer to leave his body. I prayed and received no word or utterance from the Lord that I should pray a prayer of healing over the man to such a degree that he and his wife would feel confident he was to be healed. There have been times when I did get that confidence, but most of the times the answer was a direct “no” or silence.

6. The Scriptures teach plainly that we do exist (and are conscious) even after our heart has stopped beating. *And her spirit returned,*
 - But returned from where? She had to spend a few minutes (or hours) in Abraham’s bosom. *Luke 16: 22 The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, (ESV)*
 - Side note – the men discussed the two resurrections at men’s breakfast – both saints and sinners will spend eternity in a form of a physical body.
7. Jesus’ frequent command to put a “gag order” on certain people and events was to limit the carnal enthusiasm to make him King before his time. *and the young girl rose up at once and started walking; 3 and he directed that something be given her to eat. 2 And they were seized with overwhelming amazement; but he charged them strictly 3 to tell no one what had occurred. 1 But the news of it went out into all that region.*
 - The Gadarene demoniac was free to tell everyone what God had done for him, but he lived among Gentiles. They did not have the same expectations as the Jews did of a coming Messiah.

Application

There should be no limit to the size and scope of our prayers yet we need to allow the Lord His sovereign will in each situation. We have no right to command the King to do what only He in His divine wisdom know best. But, don’t hesitate to ask, “Lord, what is your will in this situation.” If you don’t hear a still small voice, ask for a fleece like Gideon did. No shame in that at all.