

“Receiving More than You Expected!”—Mark 5:22-24

The text for this sermon, the theme of which is, “Receiving More than You Expected!”, is Mark 5:22-24 → *Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, and seeing Jesus, he fell at His feet and implored Him earnestly, saying, “My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay Your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live.” And He went with him. And a great crowd followed Him and thronged about Him.* This is the text.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus:

*Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord* (cf. 1Timothy 1:2). Amen.

Do you think it is possible to live life with no expectations? It seems impossible to me since expectations fuel virtually every desire, task, experience and relationship. Complaints and ungratefulness many times abound because of unfulfilled expectations. In fact, it is in the realm of unfulfilled expectations where the devil seems to get a foothold so much of the time to tempt us into sin. Unfulfilled expectations in relationships seem to provide an open door for harboring contempt, alienation and even affairs in marriages.

Unfulfilled expectations in tasks seem to disable people from forging ahead to be more productive. While expectations are a natural part of the motivation of life, they can produce challenges to our functioning and even our faith.

What happens when you receive more than your expected?

Receiving more money than you expected or a having better experience than your expected would be cause for joy—maybe even celebration! Receiving more news about your ill health than you expected would probably cause sadness, grief and maybe even depression. Receiving more than your expected could have either positive or negative connotations.

In our text a ruler *of the synagogue* named *Jairus* came to Jesus expecting Jesus to do what he requested. A ruler of the synagogue was a Jewish man whose responsibilities were administrative and included such things as looking after the building and supervising the worship. Apparently his *daughter was at the point of death* so he asked Jesus to *come and lay His hands on her, so that she may be made well and live* (verses 22-23). A great expectation of Jesus indeed!

His coming to Jesus and requesting His help had to involve humility **and** faith on his part. He had to humble himself in light of the attitude of the religious leaders toward Jesus. Most of the religious leaders whom Jesus encountered considered Him a threat, a

blasphemer and false teacher, and treated Him likewise. A man who worked on behalf of these leaders overseeing the synagogue would undoubtedly have risked rejection or even excommunication by seeking Jesus' help. Desperation can produce humility as it brings you to your knees in helplessness.

However, it was also an expression of Jairus' faith in the Person & Work of Jesus, no doubt based upon the fact that *His fame spread throughout all the area as He taught in their synagogues . . . proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people* (cf. Matthew 4:23-24). Notice that faith and expectations go together when it comes to encountering Jesus. Such expectation is proper **when it is connected to the promises of God's written Word coupled with faith in the Person & Work of Jesus.** Verse 24 of our text simply says that Jesus *went with him*.

When it comes to your expectations of God to fulfill His promises and act in your life, many times your faith may be tested as you have to wait for results. This becomes doubly difficult when you're desperate and the situation is critical. Imagine how Jairus' faith was literally tested while on the way to see his daughter. Let's look at what happened.

Verse 24 of our text says that *a great crowd followed Him and thronged about Him*. In that throng of people was a sick woman *who*

*had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. She believed that if she simply touched His garments she would be made well. After touching His garment . . . immediately . . . she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Jesus stopped and took the time to find the woman to reassure her: Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease. (cf. Mark 5:25-34)*

I cannot help but imagine Jairus' desperation being heightened as Jesus took the time to deal with this woman in the midst of *the crowd pressing around* and against Him. After all, couldn't Jesus have come back to help her later since **his daughter was dying**? But Jesus was sensitive toward people's faith in fulfillment of the prophecy described in Isaiah 42:3 → *A bruised reed He will not break, and a faintly burning wick He will not quench.* When you are *bruised* and feel like a smoldering wick as you struggle in your life, Jesus doesn't simply discard you as a dead plant or snuff out the spark of faith you have left. He will care for you and bring you back to life as you come to Him in faith.

However, as Jesus tarried things looked rather hopeless when messengers brought the news that Jairus' daughter had died so there was no need to *trouble the Teacher any further*. Still Jesus encouraged Jairus to not *fear* and *only believe* (cf. Mark 5:35-36). While

there was still life in the child it made sense that there was hope for healing. But what can one do with a dead corpse? Typically, life lived with a focus only on this world produces hopelessness in death.

Scripture records many who witnessed Jesus' crucifixion and experienced hopelessness upon His death (cf. Luke 24:21; John 20:13-15).

It is because of such hopelessness in this world that the Holy Spirit gives you the words of Colossians 3:1-3 → *If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.*

Through faith in Christ the Holy Spirit replaces your hopelessness with a hopefulnes**s**. You now function with sanctified expectations in **full assurance of faith**. Only faith in Jesus sees past the corpse to the life-giving power of God in your midst, overcoming what you consider impossible obstacles in life (cf. Matthew 19:26)! Jairus received from Jesus even more than he expected. He asked for healing and Jesus imparted life—not just the life of his daughter but his own spiritual life as well! This is exactly what Jesus wants to do.

Everything Jesus did and taught served the purpose of breaking down all of your expectations about how you think God should work in your life. When those expectations are broken to pieces and you are

*immediately overcome with amazement*—as were Jairus’ (cf. Mark 5:42) and probably those who *laughed at Him* (cf. Mark 4:40) before He brought forth life from death—you are acutely aware of your sinfulness in His presence. Then faith is laid completely bare and you plead, *God, be merciful to me, a sinner!* (cf. Luke 18:13) You realize you’ve received more than your could imagine and more than you could expect or deserve. You receive the complete and total forgiveness of your sins and a whole new life in His grace!

Throughout this incident Jesus didn’t just show what He could do. More importantly, He revealed Who He is as the all-powerful Son of God. Hebrews 1:3 says about Jesus: *He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature, and He upholds the universe by the word of His power.* He lives to give you more of God’s grace, love, forgiveness and power for living than you expect. Amen.

*To Him Who is able to do far more abundantly  
than all that we ask or think,  
according to the power at work within us,  
to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus  
throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*

(Ephesians 3:20-21).

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