

Only Believe

Introduction

In the scripture a man came to Jesus and said, "my young daughter is sick and close to death. Will You come to my house and pray for her?" Jesus agreed. But along the way, He kept getting stopped; one interruption after another. Finally, the word came back to Jairus saying, "no need to trouble the master any further. It's too late. The little girl has died". Last Sunday Minister Clive reminded us of the story of Abraham and the promised child, and I am reminded that their situation must have looked similar to Jairus. Abraham and Sarah were out in the desert, no medical intervention or assistance, no homemade fertility treatments had made a difference so far...I can imagine that every internal voice must have said "No need to pray about it anymore; no need to bother the Master; no need to ask God to for an heir, it is too late". Have you ever been attacked by the "too lates?"

In Luke 8:50, Jesus spoke to the distraught people, he said "Don't be afraid. If you will only believe, the little girl will be well". Are you facing a situation that seems impossible, one where nothing has changed for so long that it seems easier just to forget about it than to keep believing God? Are you wondering if things will ever change, if Jesus will ever get to you in the crowd, or if you misunderstood the intentions of God in the beginning? God is saying to us what He said to them, "if you only believe, I will turn the situation around; If you only believe, I will bring the promised son out of old loins and a dead womb. Just believe." It's simple, but it is certainly not easy.

Getting Started

Read **Genesis 22:1-14; St Luke 8:41-56**

1. Why do you think God calls Isaac, Abraham's only son in verse 2?
2. What is the significance of Abraham leaving 'early in the morning' in Gen 22:3 after God's difficult assignment?
3. Why did Jesus take the time to heal the woman with the issue of blood when Jairus' daughter lay dying?
4. Why did Jesus say that Jairus' daughter was asleep not dead? The fact that verse 55 says, "her spirit returned" means she was indeed physically dead.

Let's Get Personal

1. Abraham's faith was counted to him as righteousness (Gen 15:6). How can your faith be counted to you as righteousness?
2. Faith is the essential part of receiving the gifts of God. It is the simple, childlike faith that Jesus is looking for. Nothing pleases God more than sincere faith. (Hebrew 11:6). What concrete actions steps can you take to grow your faith?

Take The Next Step

If you have become discouraged waiting on a promise from the Lord, today recommit yourself and that promise to the Lord. Your becoming discouraged has removed your focus from God. Today spend some time in prayer, hand the situation back to the Lord and ask Him to help you to be courageous and patient while you wait.