

Now when Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed him, for they were all waiting for him. ⁴¹ And there came a man named Jairus, who was a ruler of the synagogue. And falling at Jesus' feet, he implored him to come to his house, ⁴² for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying.

As Jesus went, the people pressed around him. ⁴³ And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, and though she had spent all her living on physicians,^[1] she could not be healed by anyone. ⁴⁴ She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, and immediately her discharge of blood ceased. ⁴⁵ And Jesus said, "Who was it that touched me?" When all denied it, Peter^[2] said, "Master, the crowds surround you and are pressing in on you!"⁴⁶ But Jesus said, "Someone touched me, for I perceive that power has gone out from me." ⁴⁷ And when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling, and falling down before him declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed. ⁴⁸ And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace."

⁴⁹ While he was still speaking, someone from the ruler's house came and said, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher any more." ⁵⁰ But Jesus on hearing this answered him, "Do not fear; only believe, and she will be well." ⁵¹ And when he came to the house, he allowed no one to enter with him, except Peter and John and James, and the father and mother of the child. ⁵² And all were weeping and mourning for her, but he said, "Do not weep, for she is not dead but sleeping." ⁵³ And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. ⁵⁴ But taking her by the hand he called, saying, "Child, arise." ⁵⁵ And her spirit returned, and she got up at once. And he directed that something should be given her to eat. ⁵⁶ And her parents were amazed, but he charged them to tell no one what had happened.

Does anyone like interruptions, really? You've got a task ahead of you, and about that moment you're clipping along with some pace, the door knocks, a phone call comes. Frankly I think this is why email was invented, to keep us perpetually sidetracked. Has the thought occurred to anyone: "If it weren't for all these distractions I could really get some things done."

Jesus never did. Jesus was not at all concerned about efficiency. People are not the roadblocks to growing an effective movement for Jesus, but they were soil that God was turning over before him for the seeds of the Kingdom to grow.

Look at what happens in this passage. Jesus is on his way from these amazing miracles and teachings we've spent the last several weeks reading about: powerful sermons, miraculous healings. And no doubt Jesus was on his way to something amazing when he is interrupted. A ruler of the synagogue comes and throws himself at Jesus' feet. His name is Jairus, and he is in a crisis because his 12-year-old daughter is dead. And Jesus turns and follows him back to his house. What faith! What audacious faith!

Jesus doesn't hem and haw about whether this was a good use of his time, it just says that Jesus went. Jesus went. Many times in the bible Jesus calls people to follow him, he's usually the one giving instructions, but here the text suggests that Jairus had a need, he fell desperately at Jesus' feet in faith, and Jesus turned deviated from the plan to go and show up at Jairus' house.

Friends, this is actually great ministry. The ministry of showing up. Sometimes to be a friend, or to be a brother, you simply need to show up, to be available. And I will say that I already know that this is something you know about, because you already do it. And it may not be efficient, it may not be productive, sitting in a surgical waiting room with a person's family while their loved one is in surgery, but it is effective.

But no sooner had Jesus turned from his first plan for the day, allowing himself to be interrupted by the Synagogue Ruler, that Jesus is interrupted again for a second time. All that forward motion halted as he felt his power exit from him as his garment was touched by someone in the crowd. Instead of continuing on to the house, Jesus stops.

I've shared this before, but it bears repeating. One of the most important ministry lessons I learned was from a friend and mentor of Amy's and mine. He said his goal was to be, what he called "conspicuously not busy." He could be juggling a dozen tasks, but always gave the impression that he was free to stop everything for a person who needed to talk.

So Jesus feels his power go out of him and he turns to the crowd and says who is it that touched me? Everyone denied it, the urgency of the crowd to see him do this next miracle was pressing him forward. Peter even said: **"Master, the crowds surround you and are pressing in on you!"** People will want to impose their urgency on you too, we call this the "tyranny of the urgent," but beware. Dallas Willard was once asked what the key to growing in spiritual maturity and he said this: "relentlessly eliminate hurry."

You've got a deadline, we've got work to do, keep focused on the goal, don't sacrifice the vision for the individual. But this is exactly what Jesus does. Who touched me. And this woman, who the text says had a discharge of blood for 12 years falls on the ground before Jesus and tells him everything—and this is a long story. She tells him about 12 years of doctor visits without an answer. This is 12 years of seeing quack healers who took all her money and not provided any healing. This is 12 years of being unable to be around the people in her community because she was unclean. This was a long story that Jesus listens to.

Surly Jesus can see in the eyes of those around him the urgency of getting to the house of Jairus. Surly he can see that people are starting to sweat with anxiety about what's going to happen to that little girl. But Jesus is once again the calm in the storm, and he sees the person in need before him, and says **"Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace."**

Here again, Luke says Faith makes a person well. But this is one of those deliciously complicated Greek translations. The word to make well or make whole is the same Greek word that means to be saved. Salvation and healing carry the same connotation. In the book of Revelation at the very end where Christ it says that the dwelling place of God will be with humanity and he will be their God and they will be his people and he will wipe away every tear from their eyes—that is he will heal them—and there will be no more dying or pain, they will be whole. To be near to God, to be saved is to be whole. Our salvation is our healing, we will not be whole people until we are in relationship with God.

Jesus finally leaves this interruption and goes to the rulers house. The funeral procession and rucous has begun. But Jesus goes into the room and says “get out, she’s not dead but asleep.” And this is so ridiculous to them that they laugh. These people are professional mourners, they know a dead person when they see one. And they know that dead people don’t wake up—as if they’re merely sleeping. Jesus is delving into territory they know nothing about. Jesus is talking about resurrection.

There are three places where Jesus raises someone from the dead: Luke 7, John Lazarus, and here a 12 year old girl. Resurrection, is that what we’re talking about now? When Jesus taught about resurrection, or when we talk about what Jesus is doing in our lives, people’s first reaction will be laughter. People don’t know what to do about resurrection, because dead people don’t just rise. But Jesus goes to this one person, not in the context of the masses, where the signs and wonders can be marketed and sold, but Jesus tells everyone to leave the room so he can be close to this one girl.

I believe that Jesus heals, 100%. Not only do I believe it, I am witnessing it right now in my own life. But I am also suspicious of the circus that often surrounds, what we call faith healing, for this very reason. In the end it is always Jesus and one person, his attention is always on the individual. So, he goes into the room with her, alone with her family and Peter James and John and simply says “Child, arise.” Arise, the same word used for Jesus’ resurrection. Not wake up, not come out of that coma,

In 2000 a teenage girl named Carly had a canoe accident in the icy cold waters of the Wenatchee River in Washington. The canoe was trapped underwater and Carly was trapped beneath it for 45 minutes and they just couldn’t get to her. When they did she was not breathing, nor did she have a pulse and her body temp was 72, and everyone around her rightly assumed she was dead. Somehow miraculously her heart began to beat again, somehow miraculously she began to breathe again. But she was in a coma and in the hospital and doctor after doctor assured her that she would never live, and if she did she wouldn’t have normal function of any kind. That was until the fourth day when he mom walked into the room and young Carly lifted up her arm and waved to her mom.

And when a teenage friend of Carly’s was asked about it, she said: she seemed dead, but now she’s alive. What could be cooler than that?

There was a follow up piece 10 years later done on Carly and what she does now is say that she was saved twice. Once through the cross and relationship with Jesus into eternity, and once from the waters of the Wenatchee River.

Flemming Rutledge calls resurrection the undoing of death. And the scriptures say that Jesus resurrection was the first, but was the first of many.

What do we take away from this? Jesus was not very efficient. He stopped and looked at the people who were around him. He wasn’t very efficient because he looked at the individual who was before him. He wasn’t very efficient because he stopped to listen to the whole story. And the truth is that we were made to be in relationship with one another, and there are times when we can think of relationships as something that we need to be efficient at.

People will sometimes say things like: “It’s not about the quantity of time you spend with your kids, it’s the quality of the time.” I disagree. Living life, listening to people, asking questions, spending

quality time, this is not efficient, it's not how things get done. It's not efficient, but it is effective. And maybe the reason Jesus was so effective is that he knew what to do with interruptions.

Interruptions for Jesus were the holy ground on which he did his most important work. We often think how can we avoid the interruptions, how can we get around it, but Jesus encounters an interruptions and opportunities?

CS Lewis has a great quote: The great thing, if one can is, if one can is to stop regarding the unpleasant and unplanned things as disruptions to real life. Because the truth is, what one calls the interruptions are actually the real life that God is sending us day by day.

So if you are willing I want to give you two challenges:

1. Do something with a person you don't have time for (go for coffee, pick up the phone, go for a walk) in other words do something inefficient.
2. Pay attention to the interruptions. I suspect you will find yourself in a situation where you are being interrupted. And I invite you to slow down and pay attention, and on holy ground.

As we do these things I think we will find ourselves in the life giving presence of Jesus. And maybe then it could be said of us, or the people around us, that she was dead and now she's alive, and what can be cooler than that?