



The Process that Precedes the Promise | Andrew Matrone | 12.15.19
Weekly Study

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

What is the worst Christmas Present you've ever received?

SHARE

What is your favorite Christmas movie? Have you watched it yet this year?

Where will you be spending your Christmas?

Rate your week on a scale of 1-10. Why did you pick the number you did?

Welcome to the final Group of 2019! Congratulations on making it through another semester. Going through life together in a group is not always easy, but it is one of the best things you can do for your faith. To close the semester, take some time to reflect on this past semester by answering these questions:

How was your experience in Group this year? Did it align with your expectations?

What was the highlight of Group this year?

What was the most challenging part of Group?

GROW

Read Mark 5:21-34

What is your initial reaction to this story?

Have you ever had to watch other people receive breakthrough in their lives while you are still waiting for yours?

This story in Mark 5 is interesting because it is a story within a story. Jairus is a desperate Father who approaches Jesus for help. Jesus agrees to go with him, but on the way, another need pops up, and He stops to help. Put yourself in Jairus's shoes for a second. As beautiful as this moment is, Jairus must have been frustrated. After all, this is his darkest hour; his daughter is in desperate need of help. It's nice that Jesus stopped to help someone else, but if I were him, I would not be happy.

This week, Andrew talked about the process that precedes the promise. God isn't a cosmic vending machine. His promises can take some time to come to pass, so just because you are in a season of waiting, doesn't mean something is wrong.

Every good parent knows this. We can't just give our kids whatever they want whenever they want it. If we did, they wouldn't appreciate things nor learn anything in the process. The process that precedes the promise is the training ground God needs to get us ready to step into the things He's already promised us.

Jairus had to learn to be okay with someone else getting there healing, while he remained in the middle of his own storm. Your situation may not be quite as intense, but it is essential to remember God may be teaching you something in the process. The wait is often the hardest part, but it is also a necessary process as you get ready to step into the next season of your life!

What would be going through your mind if you were Jairus? Have you ever found yourself in a similar holding pattern?

What is one trial you are currently going through? Where do you think God is in this trial? What is one thing He is trying to teach you?

Are you good at celebrating other people while your life seems to be stalled? How can you get better at that this week?

MOVE

Read Mark 5:35-43

This story ends with Jesus giving an odd command, “He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this” why do you think Jesus says this?

When Jesus gets to the house, we learn that the religious leaders have already given up hope. They are actively trying to persuade Jairus to leave Jesus alone. The irony here is that Jairus isn't bothering Jesus at all. In fact, in His parables, Jesus gives us permission to bother Him (Luke 18:1-8). When we spend time with God, we aren't annoying Him; we are doing the very thing our Creator created us to do!

The process that precedes the promise is the space where we learn who Jesus really is. Jairus is learning firsthand that the religious leaders have a completely wrong view of Jesus. Reread what He says to him in verse 36.

“Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, “Don't be afraid; just believe.”

Jairus had every reason to be afraid. He was about to lose his daughter. But in the midst of the craziness, the invitation was to say no to fear.

As we head into a brand-new decade, this is a fantastic reminder for all of us. Chances are there are several things in your life, keeping you up at night. Life is difficult. As humans, we tend to get worried and anxious about many things. But Jesus walked around, inviting people to live a different type of life.

- “Therefore, I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?” - Matthew 6:25
- “And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?” - Matthew 6:27
- “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” - John 16:33:

Today, more than ever, we need to hear Jesus giving us the same pep talk He gave Jairus 2,000 years ago. We don't have to be afraid! Even when things look grim, God is always ready to heal and restore. Although Jairus eventually got the healing he was seeking, he also received something else in the process. He got a renewed picture of how amazing Jesus is!

Whatever is going on in your life, remember the promise is on its way, but don't be too quick to judge the process that precedes it. You are learning, growing, and being prepared for a brand-new decade!

How do you feel about this upcoming decade? If shame, fear, or insecurity were gone from your life, what would the next ten years look like for you? What would you do? And how do you think you would treat people along the way?

How can you, as Christ's loved and chosen ambassador, bring hope or encouragement to someone in your family, work, or community who doesn't yet know that God loves them this week?

P R A Y

As a group, spend some time praying with and for each other. If you are in a coed group, consider breaking up into men and women's groups to share more freely.

T O G O

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

- Matthew 6:33