

The Fine Art Of Not Paying Attention

Mark 5:35-36 - ³⁵ While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. “Your daughter is dead,” they said. “Why bother the teacher anymore?” ³⁶ ***Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, “Don’t be afraid; just believe.”***

Mark 5:36 MESSAGE - Jesus overheard what they were talking about and said to the leader, “Don’t listen to them; **just trust me.**”

I. INTRO -- YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE. . .

There are times when you ought to pay attention in fact you must pay attention

Just as there are times that we ought to pay attention and we don’t, there are other times when we pay attention, and we should not.

One of the most important things in living a victorious life for the Lord is learning how to ignore things or to not pay attention.

Ephesians 4:27 - Neither give place to the devil. (Or give the devil a foothold)

James 4:7 - *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

- This is one of the **most important lessons** the Lord learned throughout His ministry.
- **Always** there were voices clamoring for **His attention**. **Multitudes** pushed Him **toward an earthly throne**.
- ***Others encouraged a sword***, but He knew those who live by the sword will perish by it.
- **Some warned Him** about the Cross, but ***He paid no attention to them***.

He learned the fine art of not paying attention.

II. THE STORY

A. Jairus, Ruler of the Synagogue

Jairus was a good man. He was **the leader of the synagogue**. In the days of Jesus, he was **one of the most important men** in the community. **The synagogue was the center of religion, education, leadership, and social activities.**

The leader of the synagogue was the senior religious leader, the highest-ranking professor, the mayor, and the best-known citizen all rolled into one.

But his whole situation had turned him into a beggar.

Jairus was a **desperate** man with a very **sick daughter**.

- He pleads with Jesus and **informs him of the gravity of the situation**.
- “Will You please **heal** my daughter?”
- When Jesus hears of the plight of his daughter,
- He turns toward the house of suffering.

In the meantime, a **miracle interrupts His progress**. (Woman with issue of blood)

There are **some elements of the story** that makes it **even more of a dilemma**.

A frantic father - A sick woman - A dying daughter - A huge crowd - A group of impatient disciples.

All of these people are **pushing toward a solution** to their problems.

- **The father *wants healing for his child.***
- **The sick woman *wants relief from her pain.***
- **The daughter *wants her symptoms to subside.***
- **The crowd is *filled with various and overwhelming needs.***
- **The disciples *want to get the trip over with.***

B. The Carriers of Bad News

Then top all this noise off with some carriers of bad news. They are officious and they are marked by a very dark intent. *It is almost as if they are delighting in telling their news.*

I once heard of a physician that had a bedside manner that was almost sadistic. He would tell his patients, “You have cancer. You are going to die!” No explanation, no lead-in to prepare them, simply the bad news and very little hope to be extended to them.

- *Patients’ and their family members* would almost wilt when he would give them this information.
- There were *some family’s* that would tell him to get out of their rooms.

This is how bearers of gloom & doom came into the life of the Lord.

“Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Master?”

- Suddenly hope dies too.
- But there was something that happened in the face of this bad news.
- *“Jesus paid no attention to what they said.”!*

The Lord prevailed because He refused to pay attention to the prophets of doom.

There are some valuable lessons to be learned in this miracle in Mark.

III. THE LESSONS OF NOT PAYING ATTENTION

There are some incredible lessons that come to us from looking at this miracle.

A. Every Quest will have its Protest.

The First Lesson: Every Quest will have its protest.

Any time there is a high quest for something noble and great **you can count on having to meet the prophets of doom.**

The Bible is filled with examples of men *who had to overcome adversity* anytime they ... began construction on the things of God.

Nehemiah was faced with the dilemma of a broken-down wall and of an enemy who was attempting to thwart every effort toward reconstruction.

No matter who you are or how long you may live, when you start trying to reconstruct and rebuild something spiritual in your life you will be forced to face IT with a struggle.

Sometimes when you look at the challenges that are around us, you may even echo the question of Sanballat:

- ***Will a revival come from a trash pile?***
- ***Will there be reconstruction from the rubbish?***
- ***Can riches come from the refuse?***

Nothing is impossible with God. Just be alert to the fact you will have to contend with many voices.

Some of them will come from the past.

Some will come from the doubts of tomorrow.

Some will come from well-intentioned and practical people.

Some will come from those satisfied with the status quo.

The cynical voices also make their contributions.

- The crooked will **never be straight**.
- It will **always be like this**.
- You are too much **like your daddy or mother**.
- You cannot change **you have tried** before.
- You **never finish** what you start.

Don't let them stifle your faith or your hope.

B. Listening Is Dangerous

The first lesson: Every quest will have its protest.

The second lesson: Listening to the wrong voices can be dangerous

If you choose to listen there will be a tendency to become half-hearted or to give up entirely.

James 1:8 - A double minded man is unstable in all his ways

- **Half-hearted** is half-starved - **Others give up entirely.**
- There is a tragedy in **listening to the wrong voices.**
- **When you quit**, you leave the vision and the dream all unmanned.

I am convinced that part of the reason that this miracle is recorded is to briefly give a small picture of an aspect of spiritual warfare.

If the devil can merely just get you to listen to his little voice of doubt, failure, and half-truth, much of his battle is completed.

Notice the pattern throughout Scripture. Watch how the devil uses words with those he is attacking.

The serpent speaking to Eve, “Did God Really Say?” - *The downfall literally starts with a voice.*

Listen to what the terrible Tempter will say to us:

Trouble not the Master. . . there is no use in you praying.

Trouble not the Master.... your problem is too difficult.

Trouble not the Master. . . the Lord cannot do anything for you.

Trouble not the Master. . . your difficulty is too small to ask a God to take care of.

Trouble not the Master. . . this is just a part of life and it cannot be changed.

Trouble not the Master. . . we are filled with doubt, of ***what He really can do.***

Listening to the wrong voices can be hazardous to your spiritual health.

This is what Jesus and Jairus had spoken to them throughout the course of the miraculous:

“Your daughter is dead,” -- Mark 5:35

“Why bother the teacher anymore?” -- Mark 5:35

With people crying and wailing loudly -- Mark 5:38

There was funeral music being played by the family -- Matthew 9:23

They were making a great noise -- Matthew 9:23

But they laughed at him to shame Him -- Mark 5:40

I have to tell you to be extremely careful to the voices that you listen to when you are moving in the direction toward your miracle.

Do what the Lord did - ***Mark 5:36 - Jesus paid no attention to what they said.***

He paid no attention to what they said. He just ignored what they said.

C. You Can Ignore It - You can ignore the deranged voices of doubt

The first lesson: Every quest will have its protest.

The second lesson: Listening to the wrong voices can be dangerous.

The third (and last) lesson: ***You can ignore the deranged voices of doubt.***

- You can simply ***follow the example of the Lord.***
- ***Pay no attention*** at all their sad wails.
- This is the method of any person ***who has ever had any success*** at all.

There comes a point **when you choose** to ***not listen*** to ***the bearers of bad news***

You will ***lose your mind if you listen*** to every voice you hear.

All the talking around you ***will stifle the miracle that God is on His way to perform.***

- If Jesus was going at ***the request of Jairus,***
- He very well could have ***turned around*** if Jairus had requested Him to do so.
This is the dilemma of our days, stopping the Lord before He ever gets to the place of need.

Tune out the worthless and tune in the worthy.

Not only do we see Jesus refusing to listen to their voices, when He arrived at Jairus' home, he put them all out - Mark 5:40

CLOSE:

THROWN OUT!!!!

There are critical hours in every life.

- *Almost every experience* has its share of calamities and turning points.
- There are single moments and actions that act as rudders and steer us in the direction of true spiritual success or drastic misfortune.

Somewhere between your desert and your Promised Land there will seemingly be insurmountable odds and great barriers.

Fight on, struggle on, and **allow God** to see you through the difficulties.
But just keep walking with the Lord in the direction of your miracle.

Notice one of the most powerful things about this miracle is **the voices** that were troubling the Lord and Jairus **would be thrown out**.

The Lord literally had as much as He could take and **commanded the very voice of doubt to be tossed out**.

This will happen during every miracle that takes place in your life

- You must be able to not pay attention to the dissenting voices.
- But if you can ever get past those voices and into the house with the Lord, great victory will come to pass.

Furthermore, this whole thing speaks of spiritual maturity also.

- There will come a time in your life **when you find** incredible focus
- There will be very few voices that will **strike** fear in your heart.

Mark 5:39-42 - He went in and said to them, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep." 40 But they laughed at him.

After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. 41 He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha kum!" (which means "Little girl, I say to you, get up!").

42 Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). **At this they were completely** astonished.