

When you pull up to a stop sign, when do your brakes need to work? When you push the garage door opener, when does it need to open the door? Is tomorrow okay? Is even two minutes later okay? When we think about it more carefully, some things in life need to occur at a specific time, at just the right time. Some of those things need to occur now. As Jeremiah pens the words of our text, he reminds us that now is the time to trust.

I. In the mind of God, now is the time to trust Him. A. Even so, we often act otherwise. 1. Instead of trusting, we laugh at God. I know what you're thinking because it's the same thing I'm thinking. "That never happens! I would never laugh at God!" Yet it happens, just like it did in our Gospel as the crowd laughed at Jesus. Maybe we don't laugh out loud or go through the actual motions, but we still laugh. We still doubt. We still believe that God isn't going to show up in our crisis. We can deny it; we can even do our best to prove that we've never done it. But ask God, and you will get the honest, accurate answer. We've all been there, done that.

2. Instead of trusting, we blame God. In our Epistle, Paul points out the abundance of joy that was expressed in the midst of affliction. But, when we take a close look at ourselves, is that our response to affliction, to crises, to pain? When we lay the facts out on the table, our most common response isn't joy, but frustration. We don't praise God; we blame God. "God, You could have prevented this. You could have healed, could have prevented that accident. You could have made sure I didn't have to face this illness, this heartache, this pain!" We get the picture loud and clear. Because God could, we've blamed God when He didn't.

3. Instead of trusting, we've decided God is not going to show up for us. As Jairus approached Jesus with his request, did he believe in his heart that Jesus would show up, that Jesus could heal his daughter? Absolutely! But then there's us. Sometimes, we ask as a last resort. Other times, we ask hoping on a star that God might do something. Still other times, we pray asking God to do just this one thing for us and we promise that we won't ask Him for anything else. I know you want to say what I want to say, "Doesn't sound like me," but it's you, and you, and me. We've all done it and God knows it. Instead of trusting, we've made another choice.

B. Although we have failed, what occurs as we trust? 1. As we trust, God offers love. "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies are new every morning." When we lean on our God, when we trust Him with all our heart, mind, and soul, God's response is always love. We don't deserve it, can't earn it, yet God still offers what God is. The more intently we trust Him, the more evident, the more obvious His love becomes. As we lean on Him to face each new day, to face the next moment of this day, He demonstrates His love in ways we haven't noticed in the past, in ways that remind us so clearly that the time to trust is right now.

2. As we trust, God demonstrates His faithfulness. Jeremiah pens those familiar words, "Great is Your faithfulness." Now, that sounds all good and well, but what does it mean for us? God is going to do what God has promised. But what has God promised to do for you that motivates you to trust? He has promised to love you even when you don't deserve to be loved, to listen and to answer when you pray, to

forgive no matter what, to sustain you, to strengthen you, to encourage you, to show you His plan, to give you hope, to plan out and carry out your spectacular future - and that's just a really short list of God's response to trusting Him.

3. As we trust, God offers compassion. As Jairus boldly stepped before Jesus with his urgent request, how did Jesus respond? Did He say, "Go away. Can't you see that I'm busy, that I've got more important things to do with My time. Be gone?" Surrounded by crowds of people, fully aware of His mission and what He needed to accomplish in that particular day, Jesus did what most of us wouldn't take the time to do. He stopped what He was doing, gave Jairus His full attention. With every move, every act of Jesus at that moment, there was compassion, a compassion that God still offers right here, right now, to you, and you, and me.

4. As we trust, God heals. Healing Jairus' daughter was nothing short of amazing, but there's that other healing, the one that we can easily overlook in our Gospel reading. It sounds magical and even appears magical. The woman's logic wasn't logical at all in our minds - If I touch even His garments, I will be made well? Sounds kinda out there in left field, doesn't it? But before we gloss over this healing, we need to acknowledge the intense faith of this woman. No doubt, no question, no hesitation. Touching His garments, that would be enough. And the response of Jesus? "Your faith has made you well." Her intense trust prompted Jesus to heal.

5. As we trust, we wait quietly for God. We spoke those familiar words in our Introit, "I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth." Waiting quietly poses two challenges for us. First, we're not very good waiters. Surrounded by our instant gratification world and the "I want it right now" mentality, God still says, "Wait. I will do what I know best when I know best!" Then, there's the other half of the problem, the quietly part. As we realize that this moment and every other moment are the right times to trust, God says, "Trust quietly. Wait quietly. Believe quietly."

6. As we trust, we know God will come through for us. Jairus was convinced God would act. The woman in our Gospel never doubted for a moment that Jesus could heal her. That sounds all good and well, doesn't it? But, that was then. This is now. But God's response is, "Right here, right now, you are Jairus. You are the women. Believe as they believed. Trust as they trusted. Expect what they expected and I will act." However, this we need to keep clear in our minds. Intense believing does not earn healing nor does immense trust entitle us to healing. Instead, they put us in the proper frame of mind so that we will see God work as His works.

7. Your life, my life, our lives are filled with right times, with perfect moments. As we walk out those doors and face the real world, we say with great boldness, "Now, now is the time for trust!" Amen.