

AVELEIGH'S YEAR OF THE BIBLE FEB. 4, 2018
SERMON, JAIRUS AND THE REWARDS OF SEEKING GOD
TEXTS: HEBREWS 11:6 P. 1296 & MARK 5:21-42 P. 1079

“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.” Hebrews 11:6 (NIV)

WORSHIP PREPARATION, “For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him. . .” 2 Chronicles 16:9 (NIV)

3 Rewards of Seeking God:

“When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. Then one of the synagogue rulers, named Jairus, came there. Seeing Jesus, he fell at his feet and pleaded earnestly with him, ‘My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.’ So Jesus went with him. . .”
Mark 5:21-24a (NIV)

1. YOU WILL KNOW CHRIST HEART.

“He is close to the brokenhearted. . .” Psalm 34:18a (NIV)

“Draw near to God and he will draw near to you.” James 4:8a (NASB)

“A large crowd followed and pressed around him. And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, because she thought, ‘If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.’ Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering. At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, ‘Who touched my clothes?’ ‘You see the people crowding against you,’ his disciples answered, ‘and yet you can ask, “Who touched me?”’ But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. He said to her, ‘Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.’ While Jesus was still speaking, some men came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue ruler. ‘Your daughter is dead,’ they said. ‘Why bother the teacher any more?’ Ignoring what they said, Jesus told the synagogue ruler, ‘Don't be afraid; just believe.’”
Mark 5:24b-36 (NIV)

2. YOU'LL HEAR CHRIST'S VOICE.

“You don't really know Jesus is all you need until Jesus is all you have.” — Tim Keller

“He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. When they came to the home of the synagogue ruler, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. He went in and said to them, ‘Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep.’ 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. He took her by the hand and said to her, ‘Talitha koum!’ (which means, ‘Little girl, I say to you, get up!’). Immediately the girl stood up and walked around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished.”
Mark 5:37-42 (NIV)

3. YOU'LL FEEL CHRIST'S TOUCH.

“The church, you see, is not peripheral to the world; the world is peripheral to the church. The church is Christ's body, in which he speaks and acts, by which he fills everything with his presence.”
Ephesians 1:23 (Mes)

“You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:13 (NIV)

PRAYER: Father, we love you. May we seek you with all of our hearts, and may we encounter your heart in your love for us, and may we hear your voice that will speak life to us, and may we, Father, have the embrace that only you can give us from your touch.. It is in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

- FOUR FOR THE ROAD: 1, What rewards are your friends seeking?
2, What personal and professional goals are you seeking?
3, What was Jarius seeking? Why?
3, What would seeking the Lord look like to you?

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**LEADER, Seek the LORD while he may be found;
PEOPLE, call on him while he is near.
LEADER, Let the wicked forsake their ways
PEOPLE, and the unrighteous their thoughts.
LEADER, Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on us,
PEOPLE, and to our God, for he will freely pardon (Ps.55)**

Prayer of confession

Gracious God, we confess that we most frequently look to you as the last resort rather than our first help. We look to ourselves and others for a solution and, when it fails us, only then do we look to you. We are like the woman who struggled for years, then finally touched the hem of your garment to be healed. We are like Jairus the synagogue leader who sought you only when all else failed in the healing of his daughter. Forgive us we pray for making you second or third or an even more distant place in our lives.