

Lent Day 12
Tuesday February 23, 2016

Reading: Mark 5.35-43

Reflection

Have you ever been just a moment too late? May be to catch a bus or train that you needed to get to work on time? It can be really frustrating. May be it was for something more important like picking up your kid from school or saying goodbye to a loved one before they pass away. That can be gut wrenching. Have you ever experienced God being too late?

Most of us evangelicals tend to have a fairly 'victorious' theology about God. We focus on his "all-ness"; he's all powerful, all knowing, all present, etc. This leads us to tend toward a theology which sells God. Ask God and he'll give it or do it because he can. But when he doesn't we tend to be disappointed with him, may be even question him, "is God good?"

Jesus has purposed to go with Jairus in order to heal her so she would not die, but on the way another woman touched his cloak so she could be healed and Jesus stopped and made a big deal about it. Now the little girl is dead. Jesus is too late to do what he purposed to do. Imagine what Jairus felt in that moment, he had arranged a healing and laid everything on the line for it. Now it's over. But, Jesus says, "Don't be afraid; just believe." Jesus is not just a healer he is a raiser of the dead, too.

We may struggle with disappointment with God. We want things to go a certain way and God doesn't always seem to accommodate our every desire — even the good ones. I suppose that's the difference between the living, sovereign God and our fairy godmother. But, what this points at is the larger vision of God for his creation. While not everything is given in the present moment, ultimately God is restoring everything. In the resurrection at the end when God puts the whole creation right and we are found in our new bodies, in the new heaven and earth, we will receive all that is good back with no fear of ever losing it again. God is never too late, he's just an artist painting his picture.

Prayer

Living God, keep our trust in you strong, particularly in the moments when we feel disappointment with you. Give us the long vision, knowing that in the end you will put everything right and all that is good from you will be ours in a permanent and wonderful way. Make our joy complete. Amen.