

SO WHAT? now WHAT!

“Ministry is Messy Beautiful”

MAIN POINT

God’s Delay can Weaken or Strengthen Our Faith. Which will it be for you?

READ MARK 5:21-43

KEY POINTS:

- God’s delay can weaken or strengthen our faith. It can deconstruct or construct our faith. Deteriorate it or develop it. Erode it or expand it. Dissolve it or deepen it. Which will it be for you?
- God’s delay might actually be God’s patience.
- God’s patience can help our faith become more relational, communal, and substantial.

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Begin your time together with a prayer asking God to make you attentive to God's presence and to guide your conversation.

CONNECT:

Are you punctual or late? How much do you value "being on time"? Tell a story of being super late for something—how did it make you feel?

Talk about a moment or season in your life where it seemed/seems like God is delaying his presence or involvement. [This might become a tender moment for someone. Don't be afraid to stop and pray.]

ENGAGE:

Read the passage once for everyone to get acquainted with it.

What stands out to you / disrupts you / grabs your attention in these scriptures? It might be a word, phrase, or image that comes to mind.

Read the Scripture passage again. Take a moment to ponder the passage. What else are you seeing or hearing? Take a moment for each person to share.

What an amazing story! Mark builds a depth in each character. Who are you most identifying with in this story? Why?

How is this story a microcosm of Jesus' mission to breakdown class, race, gender, etc.? Do you see Mark's intentionality in the "Markan Sandwich"?

APPLY:

Would you describe your faith as relational (dependent upon relationship and conversation with Jesus)? Why or why not? What might be missing? Are you in relationship with Jesus or with what Jesus can do for you?

Would you describe your faith as communal (connected to others at WCPres)? Why or why not? What relational risk might you need to take to bring your "whole truth" into community?

Would you describe your faith as substantial (building and preparing you to last forever)? Why or why not? What might be missing? Where are Resurrection signs showing up in your life presently?