New Life: Desperation

Matthew 9: 18-31

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Read Matthew 9: 18-31, on screen

There are four desperate characters in this story. [Matthew and Luke also tell this]

Each one brings their need to Jesus

The dependence on Jesus in the midst of the struggle, Jesus calls faith

There is New Life for all 4 desperate characters in this story.

These four people experienced the brutality of life

* The loss of a child is a particular cruelty to the soul
* The woman had used up her money seeking a cure
* The blind men were either born that way or had experienced something traumatic

They put their faith in Jesus

* Somehow, they believed Jesus was who he said he was
* They believed Jesus could and would help them
  + The synagogue ruler may have heard Jesus speak [Nazareth? Isaiah scroll?]
  + The woman may have known someone who was healed [Leper, Centurion’s servant, Peter’s mom, many, 2 Demon possessed men, paralyzed man…]
  + The blind men might not see, but they can hear very well, and news of Jesus is everywhere.

They went to Jesus and asked for what they needed

* They all sought Jesus with unusual persistence
  + Jairus interrupts Jesus’ teaching and asks him to come
  + The woman defies social convention convinced that Jesus could heal
  + The blind men cry out then follow Jesus into a house, maybe even his house

Their desperation was met with compassion, healing, resurrection

* Jesus takes the dead daughter by the hand, tender
* Jesus calls the sick woman “daughter” and heals her body and her reputation
* Jesus honors the faith of the two blind men

[not for everyone, but for these]

Sometimes we experience the brutality of life, don’t we?

We are tempted to put our faith in many things, and almost forget Jesus.

We have to own our stuff and place it before Jesus.

We are met with mercy.

These are all resurrection stories, aren’t they?

* Faith is what links these 4 people to you and me.
* They put their faith in Jesus’ healing and new life began.
* We put our faith in Jesus’ resurrection and new life can begin.

When we believe the resurrection, we realize that the ordinary limitations of life are not necessarily the case.

When we believe in the resurrection, hope is reborn in us because God can do the impossible.

When we believe in the resurrection, Confidence is given to us because God is able to transcend the limits of life/death.

When we believe in the resurrection, we become convinced that even though no one else can change our situation, Jesus can.

**Prayer:**

**Baptism Liturgy:**

Christian baptism is a sacrament signifying participation by faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and incorporation into His Body, the Church. It is a means of grace proclaiming Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

The Apostle Paul declares that all who are baptized into Christ Jesus are baptized into His death. We are buried with Him through baptism so that **just as Christ was raised from the dead, we too are raised to walk in newness of life. As we have been united with Him in His death, we will also be united with Him in His resurrection.**

This is the perfect season to be baptized…the season of resurrection!

The Christian faith, into which you now come to be baptized, is affirmed in the Apostles’ Creed, which we confess:

The minister leads the congregation in the affirmation of the confession of faith.

“We believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;

“And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; **the third day He rose again from the dead;** He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

“We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Church of Jesus Christ, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.”

**Will you be baptized into this faith?** *Response:* I will.

**Do you acknowledge Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?** *Response:* I do.

**As a member of the Church of Jesus Christ, will you follow Him all the days of your life, growing in grace and the love of God and neighbor?**

*Response:* I will.

Dismiss candidates to prepare.