

Pentecost 6 7/1/18
Mark 5:21-43 8B

IT IS GOOD THAT ONE SHOULD WAIT QUIETLY FOR THE SALVATION OF THE LORD.

It seems that earthly life is all about waiting. When you are young, you're waiting for summer, you can't wait for school to be over. At last that big year comes, senior-itis sets in, and you can't wait to graduate. You can't wait for the wedding to come or for the baby or the grandchild to be born. Even when you get older, you wait. For retirement. You've had one of those conversations, haven't you? With someone who knows not only the years, but the month and even days – I've talked to a few who knew the HOURS -- until retirement. Or, you're waiting for your health to improve, or for the family get-together.

Even as God's children, it seems we spend all of our days waiting. We're always waiting for that next thing, whatever that "next thing" may be. And, it's hard. Painful. But, Dear Saints of God, it is in that waiting that God sifts us and molds us and shapes us in the image of Christ.

When Jeremiah wrote, "It is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD," he is a man who knows what it is like to wait. Remember, because he kept telling the people of Israel about the impending seventy years of exile in Babylon that they were going to endure, rather than telling itching ears what they wanted to hear, Jeremiah was thrown into the dry well. And you know Satan was continually attacking the prophet the whole time.

Or, consider our friend Jairus in our Gospel. He had a big problem. His daughter, his precious little girl, was sick. And we are not talking cold and sniffles; she was sick to the point of death. So, what does he do? He

goes to Jesus. He falls at the Savior's feet and says, "Let's go. Let's go, Jesus. My daughter is sick, you have to come to my house and heal her." So, Jesus goes.

There they go – Jairus and Jesus, off to Jairus' house to heal that precious little girl. No time to wait because that little girl is sick, to the point of death.

But, look what happens. They stop. Or maybe I should say, Jesus stops. Jesus stops because some woman, who had been suffering from a discharge of blood for 12 years, thinks that if she only touched Jesus' garment, she will be made well. So, she does it. She touches Jesus' garment and is made well. End of story, right? After all, Jesus has to get to Jairus' house to heal his little girl.

But, that's not the end of the story. Jesus stops and wants to know who touched His garment. The disciples are quite confused. Look around, we are in a big crowd. Someone just bumped into you, Jesus. But no, Jesus knows someone intentionally touched His garment because he felt power leave His body. So, He looks around, finds this woman, and they have this long, drawn out conversation.

And who's there? Cooling his heels, the whole time? That's right, Jairus. Put yourself in Jairus' shoes for a minute. Here you are – your little girl is sick to the point of death. He begs Jesus to help, off He goes to your house, and, AND, He stops. He just stops. You're waiting. And, you know we are not good at waiting. What are you going to do? What are you going to say? Maybe, "Hey Lady, I know you're sick. I know you have a problem. But my daughter is dying. If we wait, even a minute, she may die. After all, it's been 12 years. You seem to be doing ok. Another hour,

even one more day, you'll be fine. We have to go. Jesus needs to get to my house to help me!"

Or maybe you would talk directly to Jesus and say something like, "Lord, excuse me. Forgive me, but my little girl is dying. It's been 12 years. Can't she just wait a little more? You go to my house, and I'll get her cell number so You can text her later. Let's go!"

The reality of walking by faith is this: when someone we know, when someone we love, when someone as precious to us as Jairus' little daughter was to him is ill, especially ill to the point of death, we do what Jairus did, we call upon Jesus, "Come, Jesus! Help me!" And, we trust that He will. But, what if we have to wait?

At times, our journey is very much like it was for Jairus. Jesus seems to delay His coming to help. And honestly, we are not very good at waiting, especially for Jesus. And, we're not shy or polite about telling Jesus what we think when He makes us wait. We moan, groan, complain, curse God. That's what we do.

Everyone, that is, but Jairus. What does Jairus do? He doesn't moan, groan, complain, curse God. He just stands there. He's quiet, even when they tell him, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?" He doesn't say a word. He just stands there and is quiet. How could he do that? Why does He do that?

The real answer to that question for you, Dear Child of God, is that you can do that, too. The reason why is given in the Bible, "It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD." And you say, "Why is it GOOD?"

It is good for this simple reason, Dear Child of God: BECAUSE YOU HAVE NO REASON NOT TO. Jesus has promised to be with you always,

at all times, and in all places. It's good to wait for His salvation because He always does what is best for you, but He does it in His own time and in His own way.

Think about it this way: Right after Adam and Eve sinned against God and plunged you and me and the entire world into sin, death, and hell, God made a promise to them, "I will send you a Savior, and that Savior will be the seed of woman" (cf. Gen. 3;15). That child, that seed of a woman, was not born that day. In fact, there was some time before that seed of a woman was born. That's not to say God was not with His children, because He most certainly was. That child was born in the fullness of time. When the time was right according to God's will and plan, Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary. But even then, He did not complete our salvation right away. A few years passed, 33 in fact. He would die as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world, but only when His hour had come.

When His hour did come, He did go to the cross of Calvary. In fact, He went carrying upon Himself all of your moaning, and groaning, complaining and cursing of God, gave His life a ransom for all your sins. And then, when the time was right on the 3rd day, He rose again from the dead to give you forgiveness, life, and salvation in His name.

He gave it all to you in your baptism. And you also received His promise, "I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Mt 28:20). And that promise of God enables you to do what Jairus did – wait quietly and patiently for the salvation of the LORD.

That promise tells you Jesus is with you. He travels with you, just as He traveled with Jairus. He will always do what is best for you, BUT... He will do it in His own way, in His one time. All you have to do is look at

Jairus to see how true that is. Even after all the delays, even after his little daughter had died, Jesus was still with him, to do what was best for him.

And He will always do what is best for you. And if you find yourself waiting for Jesus to do what is best for you, be comforted and be cheered. Jesus is with you, as He makes you His own child in your baptism; as He speaks His words of forgiveness and life into your ears; as He feeds you His life-giving Body and Blood to strengthen you to walk by faith; as He gives you the peace that passes all human understanding. He will never leave you nor forsake you. He will do what is best for you at the time that is best for you. And if that tells you anything, Dear Child of God, it is simply this: It is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.