

Date: 14 Jan 2024 | Speaker: Ps. Ben KC Lee | Topic: Faith's Interruptions | Scripture: Mark 5:21-43

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Reflect on how we respond to interruptions and how we can choose to respond and trust in faith.
2. Reflect on Jesus' character and find assurance in His compassion for us

SERMON SUMMARY

Pastor Ben preached from [Mark 5:21-43](#). Jesus had calmed the storm not long before, and had ministered to a man that was demon possessed. As they crossed the lake again, Jesus and his disciples met with two interruptions that became two stories of faith, healing and revelations of God's power and compassion.

1. *The Desperate Plea (v. 21-24)*

The love Jairus demonstrated for his daughter is the same love God has for each of us. Thank our heavenly Father for His love for us.

2. *Healed by Faith (v. 25-34)*

Though Jesus was on an urgent mission, He stopped to help this lonely suffering woman. He's willing to help us personally. Jesus has the power to heal if we come to Him with faith.

3. *Only Believe (v. 35-43)*

When our fears and problems overwhelm us, Christ will tell us the same thing: Stop being afraid - only believe.

Many of us are uncomfortable with interruptions. Interruptions are often God's ways of inviting us to imagine the present and the future differently. They are His ways of offering of redirection and change. May we be open to the interruptions God allows and not to let it stop our faith; and to choose to "Only Believe" as we journey with Him.

SERMON RECAP

Pastor Ben preached from the book of Mark and the passage is one of Mark's most distinctive sandwich stories. Mark likes using a story within a story. For Mark, stories explain each other. In characteristic style, Mark starts one story, interrupts it with another and then gets back to the story which he begins - like the interruptions in life itself. Jesus' early ministry was filled with interruptions. He was often seen dealing with one matter when another intrudes.

1. *The Desperate Plea (v. 21-24)*

Jairus reached out to Jesus to seek healing for his daughter while Jesus was with a large crowd by the lake. He believed that Jesus could make her well. The love Jairus demonstrates for his daughter is the same love God has for each of us, where Jesus also came to die for us so that we could enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

2. *Healed by Faith (v. 25-34)*

While Jesus was on the way to Jairus' house, he experienced a second interruption where a women touched his cloak as she desired to be healed. Jesus chose to stop to ask "Who touched me?" though he was in a crowd. Though Jesus was on an urgent mission, He stopped to help this lonely suffering woman. She had been unclean due to her health condition and was desperate as she had spent all she had. Jesus not only healed her, but called her "daughter", restoring to her the identity as a child of God. He's willing to help us personally. Jesus has the power to heal if we come to Him with faith.

3. Only Believe (v. 35-43)

After this interruption, Jesus experiences a third interruption as Jairus receives news that his daughter has passed away. It may have looked like it was too late. However, Jesus performed a miracle and raised her from the dead. When our fears and problems overwhelm us, Christ will tell us the same thing: Stop being afraid - only believe.

Many of us are uncomfortable with interruptions. Interruptions are often God's ways of inviting us to imagine the present and the future differently. They are His ways of offering of redirection and change. May we be open to the interruptions God allows and not to let it stop our faith; and to choose to "Only Believe" as we journey with Him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Share a time when you experienced an interruption in everyday life. How do you usually respond? Share also a time where you experienced an interruption / disruption in your life. How did the interruption impact your faith, and how did your faith influence your experience of the interruption?**

Leader's Notes

This question aims to act as an icebreaker for members to think about everyday interruptions and how we respond to it. Members can also share about how they may respond to everyday interruptions differently as it can range in severity and impact different things.

Leaders can then invite members to share about a time where they experienced an interruption or disruption. Members can think about times where they may have had certain plans but it changed as they sensed God's leading; or it could be an interruption brought about by physical health issues etc. Members are invited to think about how the interruption and their faith interacted in that process – e.g., struggling with doubt for a period of time, praying more, managing the adjustments etc. Members can share their reflection with the rest of the cell.

Transition

Though we all respond differently to interruptions, they are opportunities for God to work in and through our lives.

- 2. Through the passage, we see how Jesus allowed the “interruptions” – people who were desperate for a touch of His healing, and he met them at their need. How does reading Jesus' responses encourage you in your faith journey?**

Leader's Notes

This question aims to let members reflect on Jesus' responses when he met with interruptions, to consider how he was moved with compassion and had set aside his plans to attend to their needs. Members can take time to share what this reflects about Jesus, his heart for us and to also share knowing who Jesus is acts as an assurance and an encouragement in their journey.

Transition

As we remember the faithfulness of Christ, may we rest assured in His character and find courage as we continue to seek His leading within our communities!

- 3. Read Mark 5:35 – 43 again. In Mark 5:36, Jesus told the synagogue ruler Jairus not to be afraid, and to only believe. Imagine if you were one of the following: Jairus, his wife, His disciples or those in the others in the commotion. Share how the experience would have felt for you being in their shoes. Share with the cell how you would usually respond to the words “Only Believe”, and if you wish to respond to in a similar or different way in the future.**

Leader's Notes

Members are invited to imagine how they would have responded if they were in the shoes of the various characters. What does this tell us about our own faith when we face difficulties? How would seeing Jesus work a miracle shape our view of Jesus and of our situation?

Members are also invited to reflect on the words “Only Believe” – for members who are able to readily believe - to share on their journey of how they have recognised that they can trust God wholeheartedly, or for members who struggle to believe readily and desire to grow in their faith – they can share on how they can take steps to trust God even in the tough times.



Discussion Questions

Members can break into smaller groups to pray for one another with regards to trusting God wholeheartedly in our circumstances.

Closing

As we grow in spiritual maturity, may we continue to trust and commit our plans to God, knowing that His ways are higher than our ways. May we also know that we do not journey alone in this and we have each other to cheer and encourage one another.

Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

1. Sermon Application

- For us to be open to faith's interruptions and to allow God's moulding for his glory.
- To commit our plans to Him, to seek Him and to obey His leading
- To live by faith and not fear
- Pray for our Church and our leadership as we continue to walk in step with Him.

2. RiverLife

- Pray for our church, that as we enter into 2024, we will determine to grow into Christlikeness.

3. World

- Continue to pray for the various nations that are at war:
 - a. Russia and Ukraine
 - b. Myanmar (Civil War)
 - c. Israel & Hamas
- Continue to pray for countries that have an escalated conflict situation:
 - a. China and the Philippines in the South China Sea
 - b. North & South Korea
- Continue to pray for countries recovering from recent natural disasters:
 - a. Japan (Earthquake)
 - b. Iceland (Volcanic Eruption)
- Pray for the situation at the Red Sea where militants from Yemen are attacking various ships
- Pray for Indonesia as it approaches its elections.

4. Opportunities for Outreach

- € Ask the Lord to bless us as we step out to reach a pre-believer.
- € Ask the Lord to grant you opportunities to reach out to a non-believing loved one, friend, or colleague this week as we seek to mature in Christlikeness.

1. Water Baptism Class.

- Sat, 27 Jan 2024 | 9am to 3.30pm Room 214/215 (Level 2)
- Water baptism is a public declaration of a believer's union and new identity in Christ and an outward expression of our commitment in receiving Christ as our personal Lord and Saviour. If you desire to take the step of faith to be water-baptised, do join our baptism class to understand the significance and importance of baptism.
- Register for this class at rlc.sg/baptism-class by Tue, 23 Jan.
- For enquiries, please contact Karen Koh at karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg.
- Please note:
 - Participants will have a one-hour lunch break at own expense.
 - Our upcoming Water Baptism Service will be held on Sun, 17 Mar at 2pm.

2. The RiverLife Welcome Lunch

- Sun, 21 Jan 2024 | 11.30am-1pm, Faith Chapel (Level 2)
- Relationships matter to us because church is family. If you are new to RiverLife, come join us for this Welcome Lunch so that we can get to know one another better. You'll get to meet fellow RiverLifers as well as our staff team members too. This session is for those who have not attended a Welcome Lunch previously. Due to capacity constraints, each guest may be accompanied by up to two family members or friends (including their host).
- RSVP online: rlc.sg/welcomelunch

1. YA Gatherings (For Young Adults in their 20s). First Saturday Every Month, 5pm-8.30pm Victory Chapel (Level 1).

The YA Gathering is a space where young adults can get together to connect and build community. This gathering is made up of two components – Community Conversations & Communal Dinner – both with a focus on relationship building and life conversations. If you are interested in joining the gatherings and would like to find out more, connect with us on our Telegram Channel: [rlc.sg/ya](https://t.me/rlc.sg/ya).

Gathering Dates: 24 Feb, 6 Apr, 4 May, 1 Jun, 3 Aug, 7 Sep, 5 Oct, 2 Nov

YA Camp: 5-7 Jul

Christmas Outreach: 14 Dec

2. RiverLife Prayer Meetings.

- *RLC Prayer Room.* Tue, 8-9.30pm, Victory Chapel. (Livestream: rlc.sg/rpr-watch)
- *Revive Nights.* Wed, 8pm – 9.30pm, Victory Chapel. (Livestream: rlc.sg/revivenights)

We encourage you to set aside every Wednesday for a time of fasting.

3. Quarterly Calendar for Key English Adult Congregation Events

**Some dates are tentative and subjected to change. Stay updated via our digital bulletin and our social media channels for the latest information.*

Quarter 1	Quarter 2
<p><u>January</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 06 Jan – YA Gathering • 13 Jan – Caleb Ministry Gathering • 21 Jan – EA Welcome Lunch • 27 Jan – Water Baptism Class #1 <p><u>February</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 Feb – YA Gathering, Caleb Ministry • 25 Feb – Q1 Leaders Huddle <p><u>March</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3, 17, 24 Mar – Marriage Preparation Course #1 • 17 Mar – Water Baptism Service #1 • 23 Mar – Parents Gathering #1 • 29 to 31 Mar – Good Friday / Easter Weekend 	<p><u>April</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 06 Apr to 22 Jun – YA Gathering, Alpha #1 • 07 Apr – Dating Couples Briefing #1 • 13 Apr – Caleb Ministry Gathering • 20 Apr – RTF (Hope, Healing, Freedom) <p><u>May</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 04 May – YA Gathering • 10 to 11 May – Leaders Advance • 24 to 31 May – Equipping #1 • 30 May to 01 Jun – SuperLife Camp <p><u>June</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2, 23, 30 Jun – Marriage Preparation Course #2 • 08 Jun – Caleb Ministry Gathering, Water Baptism Class #2 • 09 Jun – RiverLife AGM • 13 to 16 Jun – Youth Camp • 29 Jun – Parents Gathering #2

Calendar

Quarter 3	Quarter 4
<p><u>July</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 to 7 Jul – YA Camp • 13 Jul – Caleb Ministry • 14 Jul – Dating Couples Briefing #2 • 20 to 21 Jul – RTF 1B • 21 Jul – EA Welcome Lunch • 28 Jul – Baptism Service #2 <p><u>August</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 03 Aug – YA Gathering • 03 Aug to 3 Oct – Alpha Run #2 • 04 Aug – Q3 Leaders Huddle • 17 Aug – Parents Gathering #3 • 24 to 25 Aug – RTF (Round Robin) <p><u>September</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 07 Sep – YA Gathering • 01 to 15 Sep – Marriage Preparation Course #3 • 01 to 29 Sep – SPYces • 06 to 15 Sep – Equipping #2 • 14 Sep – Caleb Ministry Gathering • 22 Sep – EA Mid-Autumn Lunch Outreach 	<p><u>October</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 05 Oct – YA Gathering, Water Baptism Class #3 • 06 to 20 – Marriage Preparation Course #3 • 12 Oct – Caleb Ministry Gathering • 27 Oct – RTF (Essential Teachings) <p><u>November</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 02 Nov – YA Gathering • 10 Nov – Water Baptism Service #3 • 15-24 Nov – Equipping #4 • 23-25 Nov – Marriage Retreat <p><u>December</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 Dec – YA Christmas Outreach, Caleb Ministry Gathering • 21-22 Dec – Christmas Outreach Weekend • 28 Dec – Parents Gathering #4

Ministry & Opportunities



1. The 9M Ministry.

This ministry provides prayer support for expectant mothers on their 9-month journey of pregnancy. Sisters-in-Christ who are fellow RiverLifers are assigned as Prayer Buddies to walk alongside mums who sign up to receive prayer support.

- Receive Prayer Support: rlc.sg/9m
- Provide Prayer Support: rlc.sg/serve

2. Missions Microsite.

Discover how you can go, give and pray for the nations. Let's make a difference in the nations together! For more information, visit rlc.sg/missions.

3. RiverLife Cares Opportunities.

Enquiries/Registration: rlc.sg/serve-rlcar

4. Prayer Ministry.

If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. fear, worry, etc), you can sign up for RiverLife's RTF ministry: bit.ly/rlcrtf

1. Bible Reading Plan.

The church has provided 3 undated Bible Reading plans that will serve as a resource for those who wish to follow a Bible Reading plan. Link: rlc.sg/brp

- 2 Year Chronological Bible Reading Plan.
- 3 Year Bible Reading Schedule (Alternating readings between Old and New Testament passages)
- Redemptive Historical Bible Reading Plan (At your own pace, focusing on the redemption story)

2. RiverLife Podcast.

The RiverLife Podcast allows you to listen to RiverLife content anytime, anywhere! The link to go to is rlc.sg/podcast or simply search 'The RiverLife Podcast' on Spotify.

3. Spiritual Growth Resources.

We have put together a curated list of recommended resources for the RiverLife family. These resources (books, articles, podcasts and videos) are recommendations for the various spiritual growth stages as you seek to grow deeper in the River of God this year. You can access them at rlc.sg/resource. This list will be continually populated throughout the year.

4. Testimony.

If you have a testimony to share, you can write to us at stories@riverlife.org.sg to share with us your testimony as an encouragement to others.

5. Stay Connected with RLC.

Follow us to stay updated on latest church news and happenings.

WhatsApp Broadcast: rlc.sg/wachannelinvite

Telegram Channel: t.me/RiverLifeChurch

Facebook & Instagram: [@riverlifechurchsg](https://www.instagram.com/riverlifechurchsg)

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