

INTERRUPTIONS ARE LIFE'S STOPLIGHTS



(Mark 5:22-34, 41-42)

One certain day one of the rulers of the Synagogue named Jairus, came to YAHSHUA prostrating himself at His feet begging Him to come and heal his daughter who was at the point of death. This leader was one of the board members of elders who governed the activities and oversaw the building and whatever else that pertained to do with the synagogue. They were lay leaders who did not get paid for services rendered. Jairus, in spite of his position, had to

make a decision not acceptable by the Pharisees or the Scribes- the spiritual leaders of the country. Based on the testimony of many concerning YAHSHUA'S power to heal the sick, and possibly having witnessed it himself, he believed YAHSHUA could heal his daughter who was at the point of death. No doctors could turn her around and give her life. Jairus could be thrown out of the synagogue's leadership position due to his decision, but his daughter's health situation was of more value at that moment. He courageously went to see YAHSHUA humbly begging Him for his daughter's healing. His heart was filled with hope when YAHSHUA decided to follow him to his house.

As usual, that was a busy day for YAHSHUA. On the way to Jairus' house, the crowd continuously pressed Him from all sides. The moving was slow and hard. Jairus perhaps felt anxious thinking that his daughter could die at any moment. Unknown to him there was in the midst of that crowd a woman, like him, desired YAHSHUA'S healing touch also. She believed that by touching even just the fringe of YAHSHUA'S garment she would be healed from a disease she suffered for twelve years. She kept saying, "If only I touch His garments, I shall be restored to health." In that hope she courageously ventured out to touch Him from behind, for the nature of her problem was embarrassing, and according to the Law found in Leviticus 15: 25, she was considered unclean: If a woman has an issue of blood for many days, not during the time of her separation, (period), or if she has a discharge beyond the time of her (regular) impurity, all the days of the issue of her uncleanness she shall be as in the days of her impurity; she shall be unclean. This poor woman was cast out from society. Like a leper, she was considered impure and unclean and so she was separated from society. She was healed immediately after having touched YAHSHUA. But that was not going to be unnoticed because power had proceeded from Him. Recognizing what had happened, He asked the question: Who touched my clothes? He kept looking around to see her who had done it. The woman alarmed and frightened, and trembling, fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth (Mark 5:30-33).

Did the Law condemn her for getting out in the crowd? Maybe, but not the Author of the Law. He commended her for her faith and assured her of her healing from that time on. That was in the eyes of Jairus perhaps an interruption. How long did it take for all that to happen before someone came from his house announcing the death of his daughter? Long enough, in fact, YAHSHUA was still speaking to her when someone came with the news.



“Why bother and distress the Teacher any further?” So the man concluded. YAHSHUA never lost focus of Jairus’ request. That incident on the way to his house was ordained by God with a prophetic meaning. YAHSHUA made sure that Jairus knew that, and said to him, Do not be seized with alarm and struck with fear; **only keep on believing** (Mark 5:35-36). Arriving at Jairus’ house, YAHSHUA took control of the chaotic situation, saying, Why do you make an uproar and weep? The little girl is not dead but is sleeping (Vs. 39). There will always be life when the Author of life is present. YAHSHUA brought Jairus’ little girl to life in spite of the delay, perhaps in the mind of Jairus. His interruption was so that he would learn persistent faith. The prophetic significance in both of these two people is linked to the nation of Israel. The number twelve remarkable speaks of governmental perfection. When God formed the nation of Israel, He chose the twelve tribes of Israel. “This number symbolizes God’s perfect accomplishment actively manifested.” The meaning of the number twelve is seen in the choosing of the twelve disciples to follow YAHSHUA, representing Israel as a whole to carry the good news to the world.

The apostle Paul was interrupted when he was on his way to Damascus to persecute the Christians. He was full of anger against them. As a matter of fact,

the Bible describes him drawing his breath hard from threatening and murderous desire against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and requested of him letters to the synagogue at Damascus, so that if he found any men or women belonging to the Way, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem (Acts 9:1-2). But that fury against the Lord's people did not take him far before the Lord YAHSHUA interrupted him with a light from heaven flashing around him. Falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? Saul calming down, changing the tone of his voice, asked the Lord, Who are You, Lord? When YAHSHUA answered him, I am YAHSHUA, Whom you are persecuting. Saul trembling and astonished he asked, Lord, what do You desire me to do? The Lord then said, Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do (Acts 9:3-6). Saul's life was turned around from that moment on and no longer was he the persecutor of Christians, but he was persecuted by the Jewish leaders to his death. Paul suffered many interruptions while ministering the Gospel, as he himself relates in I Cor. 4:11-13. Interruptions, however, did not stop him from accomplishing the work God had called him to do. At the end of his life, he writes Timothy, For I am already about to be sacrificed; the time of my release is at hand and I will soon go free. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me and recompense me on that day...(II Tim. 4:6-8a). He died a martyr's death for the cause of the Gospel when in prison in Rome. Paul's interruption when on the road to Damascus resulted in the salvation of many people and the writing of most of the New Testament books.

Men plan their destiny but the answer comes from the Lord. The everyday plans we make are many times interrupted or thwarted because God in His knowledge of all things knows the best for His children. Traffic lights are examples of interruptions in our travels from here to there, or to somewhere far. They serve to slow us down or stop all the way. A minute here, a minute there, slowly, we arrive at our destination, without any incidents, or accidents but not always. Many have lost their lives, many have gone crippled, many have never arrived at their destination to fulfill their plan. For one reason or another, which we will never know, things don't always work out in our favor, so they seem. Interruptions, although not accepted by most, are for the good of those who desire to follow the Lord. Sometimes, we kick and scream at those interruptions, asking why but never getting an answer, as long as we continue in our rebellious

attitude. Jairus was comforted by the Lord when receiving the bad news due to the delay or interruption on their way to his house. He believed the report from the Lord and his child was brought to life.

Who is he who speaks and it comes to pass, if the Lord has not authorized and commanded it? Is it not out of the mouth of the Most High that evil and good both proceed? (Lam. 3:37-38). The Lord will speak to us through interruptions sometimes to let us know that the time was not yet, or that whatever was interrupted it was not for it to be. There is a quiet place near to the heart of God from where we will receive peace in the midst of the uncertainties of interruptions. We do not have to know the why, but we need to accept interruptions for what they are.

THINK ABOUT IT!