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A M E T H O D I S T C H U R C H

Homegroup material



humble expectation

CRAE NOURSE 28 AUGUST 2011

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I. Introductory Discussion Questions

1. What stood out for you most about the “Humble Expectation” sermon?
2. Why do you think it is important for us to balance humility and expectation in our relationships with God?
3. Read the accounts of the woman who has healed and the healing of Jairus’ daughter below. What stands out for you most?

- **Mark 5 vs 21- 43:**

“And Jesus having crossed again by boat to the other side, a large crowd collected on Him. And He was near the sea. And, behold, one of the synagogue rulers came, Jairus by name. And when he saw Him, he fell at His feet. And he begged Him greatly, saying, My little daughter lies at the point of death. Come, lay Your hands on her, so that she may be healed, and she shall live. And Jesus went with him. And many people followed Him and thronged Him. And a certain woman who had had an issue of blood twelve years, and had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and had not been bettered any, but rather came to worse, having heard about Jesus, she came in the press behind and touched His garment. For she said, If I may but touch only His clothes, I will be cured. And instantly the fountain of her blood dried up. And she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague. And knowing instantly within Himself that power had gone out of Him, Jesus turned Himself around in the press and said, Who touched My clothes? And His disciples said to Him, You see the crowd pressing on You, and do You say, Who touched Me? And He looked around to see her who had done this thing. But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had been done in her, came and fell down before Him and told Him all the truth. And He said to her, Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be whole from your plague. While He still spoke, they came from the synagogue ruler's house, saying, Your daughter is dead; why do you still trouble the Teacher? But hearing the word spoken, Jesus said to the synagogue ruler, Do not be afraid, only believe. And He allowed no one to follow Him, except Peter and James and John, the brother of James. And He came to the synagogue ruler's and saw a tumult, and weeping and much wailing. And going in He said to them, Why do you make a tumult and weep? The girl is not dead, but sleeps. And they laughed at Him. But when He had put them all out, He took the father and the mother of the child, and those with Him, and went in where the child was lying. And He took the child's hand and said to her, Talitha koumi; (which interpreted is, Little girl, I say to you, Arise!) And instantly the little girl arose and walked (for she was twelve years old). And they were astonished with a great astonishment. And He strictly warned them that no one should know this. And He said to give her something to eat.”

ii. Expectant fascination

1. The woman who was healed in the account above was drawn to Jesus because she was fascinated with Him and really believed that He could heal her. Would you say that you are presently fascinated with or continually drawn to Christ? Why or why not?
2. God is like a diamond with many facets. He continually wants to reveal more of Himself to us. What aspect or facet of God's character are you experiencing right now?
3. Our suffering and pain can lead us to experience aspects of God we would not have experienced in other ways. Has this been true in your own life? How have you experienced God in times of suffering or pain?
4. What are you believing God for right now? What are you expecting in your relationship with Him or expecting from Him?
5. How do you think we can continually remain expectant in our relationships with God and continue to hunger for more of Him?

iii. Humble submission

1. In your understanding what is humility?
2. How would you describe submission?
3. Why do you think humility and submission are so difficult for us as human beings to master?
4. In what way do you think the woman who was healed and Jairus humbled themselves in coming to Jesus for help?
5. Read the following passages. Why do you think humility is so important to God?

- **Psalm 10 vs 4:**

"Through the pride of his face the wicked will not seek Him; There is no God in all his schemes."

- **Psalm 69 vs 32:**

"The humble shall see and be glad; and your heart shall live, you who seek God."

- **Proverbs 11 vs 2:**

"Pride comes, then shame comes; but with the lowly is wisdom."

- **Proverbs 16 vs 18:**

“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall”.

- **Proverbs 29 vs 23:**

“A man's pride shall bring him low; but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.”

- **James 4 vs 6:**

“But He gives more grace. Therefore He says, God resists the proud, but He gives grace to the humble.”

- **1 Peter 5 vs 5-7:**

“Likewise, younger ones, be subject to older ones, and all being subject to one another. Put on humility. For God resists proud ones, but He gives grace to the humble. Therefore be humbled under the mighty hand of God, so that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your anxiety onto Him, for He cares for you.”

6. How do you think we can practically submit ourselves to God?

7. In the account of the healing of Jairus' daughter, those who fail to believe that Jesus can heal her and to submit to His authority, but laugh at Him instead, are sent away and do not get to experience the miracle He performs in raising her from the dead. How do you think our pride gets in the way of our experiencing God?

IV. Bold intimacy

1. The woman who was healed took a great risk in reaching out to touch Jesus, but her boldness resulted in her healing. How do you think you can be bolder in your pursuit of God?

2. How intimate would you say your relationship with God is at present? Why?

3. Why do you think there is sometimes the temptation to keep God at arms' length and not to really let Him in and be in intimate relationship with Him?

4. How do you think we can overcome these obstacles?

5. Often, intimacy with Jesus can be uncomfortable for us (see Mark 7 vs 32-35) but the rewards are always beyond our wildest imaginations. How can you practically take a bold step this week in drawing nearer to God?

V. Call to action

1. What will we do with what we have discovered in this session?
2. How will we hold each other accountable to this?