

There is quite a contrast between the Gospel of last week – and the Gospel of this week. Remember last week, we had the disciples being caught up in a violent storm as they crossed the Sea of Galilee. The waves were breaking over the boat, and it was quickly filling up with water.

The disciples go to Jesus, who is asleep in the front of the boat, wake him and say, “teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” --“Do you not care?”  
Ouch!

Of course Jesus cared – that’s why he was in the boat with them. All they had to do was let him know what they needed. . .

But they were filled with fear – and so rebuked Jesus for not being a bit more attentive to their needs. But Jesus asks them, “why are you terrified – do you not yet have faith?” Apparently , not.

This week, the Sea having been crossed – a large crowd gathered around Jesus. And in that crowd – a synagogue official, named Jairus – who had a very sick daughter.

Unlike the disciples, there is no fear in Jairus – he walks right up to Jesus – falls on his knees and pleads earnestly for what he needs: “my daughter is at the point of death. Please, come lay your hands on her that she may get well and live.”

Jesus does as Jairus asks: he goes with him, takes the girl by the hand, commands her to rise – and so she does.

So the contrast is in how people approach Jesus:

The disciples in fear.

Jairus in faith.

The disciples with a rebuke.

Jairus with a request.

The disciples standing over Jesus as they wake him.

Jairus on his knees in humility with Jesus the one left standing.

The disciples demanding attention for themselves.

Jairus pleading on behalf of another.

The disciples wondering if Jesus even cares.

Jairus having no doubt that he does. . .

And now the important question – who are we most like – the disciples – or Jairus?

And more than likely – we are not one or the other: but a combination of both. . .

Let’s remember the lesson of a couple of weeks ago with the farmers and seeds and mustard plants. We need to be patient with ourselves and others. A plant cannot be rushed from seed to harvest – and neither can our spiritual lives be rushed.

As with seeds and plants: we need to be attentive to our spiritual lives, we need to nurture them, and we need to encourage growth in ourselves and each other.

So on our spiritual journey – as long as we see a movement, growth, change -- gradual though it may be –

From fear to faith.

From rebukes to requests.

From demands for ourselves to pleading on behalf of others.

From wondering if God and Jesus even cares about us – to having no doubt that they do ---

As long as we see movement, growth, change ----then we are becoming the people God calls us to be.

Let's realize something in our lives the disciples, at least in this point of the Gospel ---have failed to realize:

Jesus is always with us. He does care for us. All we have to do is turn to him and ask for what we need.