

march 19 & 20

## BRINGS YOU HOME

john fuller, senior pastor

what love **DOES**

### INTRODUCTION

In his timeless song, "Cat's in the Cradle," Harry Chapin relates the story of a father who's too busy to find time for his son. "My child arrived just the other day, he came to the world in the usual way, but there were planes to catch, and bills to pay, he learned to walk while I was away..." Throughout the song, this unwise father fails to put his growing child's interests before his own. Most of us recognize the poignant words that conclude this loveless sonnet, as the son grows up to reciprocate his father's inattention. While we may be inclined to behave like that too-busy father, consider how Jesus demonstrates a different model in Hebrews 7:25. "He is able to save those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them." Aren't you glad Jesus' love transcends all interruptions, such that He finds time to meet our every need?

### DISCUSSION

1. From **Mark 5:21-24**, what is Jesus' response to this interruption? From verse 24, who interrupts Jesus while He makes His way to attend to the first interruption? Is it easy or hard for you to be "interruptible"? Do you set an agenda and meet it all costs, or do you listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit? Discuss with your group.
2. As Jesus continues on His journey to the daughter's bedside, He encounters another interruption. From **Mark 5:25-28**, who is this person and how does she detain Him? Why isn't she more forceful in getting Jesus' attention? Would His response be any different if she was more aggressive? What is the result of her interruption? Can you think of an analogy of this in today's society? What kind of people would approach us for help in this way? How do we respond to them?
3. In **Mark 5:35, 38**, Jesus is interrupted two more times before reaching Jairus' daughter. Who interrupts Him in each case, and how does He respond to each? From verses 41 and 42, what is the ultimate result of Jesus' response to this unscheduled journey? Doubters and unbelievers sometimes stand in our way to blessing others. How do you deal with these kinds of interruptions?

### THINK ABOUT IT

In the passages above, we see how Jesus' love accepts and transcends our interruptions. Another aspect of His love is that He is able to erase all barriers. The topic of barriers and "walls" has received much attention recently, as political campaigns have fired up the rhetoric of "us" against "them." Some have even bemoaned that we are seeing the worst-ever tensions in American history. Yet, most will be surprised to learn in 1813, aspiring statesman Andrew Jackson was nearly killed in a gun duel with senator-to-be Thomas Benton of Missouri; thirteen years later, they became close political allies as they passed important legislation for our young democracy. If these two men can make amends, let's not lose hope in Christ's power to unite our fellow citizens through our love and examples.

### DO SOMETHING

1. Google the hymn, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," and read the inspiring words of the 19th century songwriter Joseph Scriven reflecting on his life of tragedy and triumph. He implores us to bring our needs to Christ without fear of interruption. "O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry, everything to God in prayer!" Pray for those lost in sin, those in your circle who need to see Jesus, and the opportunity to invite them to one of the Easter services.
2. No doubt, you will take part in at least one conversation this month in which an emotional subject like politics will be discussed. Prepare for that moment in advance, prayerfully checking your attitude, such that your words will offer the hope of Christ's love and unity to others.

For more information, contact [grouplife@prairielakeschurch.org](mailto:grouplife@prairielakeschurch.org).