

What happens when life does not match the picture we had in our minds? This message digs into one of the most honest tensions in the Christian life: the gap between our expectations and reality. Drawing from Mark chapters 5 and 6, we walk alongside Jesus as he raises a young girl from the dead, only to be laughed at by mourners who thought he was out of his mind, and then travels to his own hometown, where the people who knew him best trusted him the least. The central spiritual lesson is both humbling and liberating. Faith is not a guarantee that life will go our way. It is, rather, a decision to take God at his word even when circumstances push back hard. We are challenged to examine where our expectations come from, whether they are rooted in genuine trust in God or in personal desire, assumption, and the quiet belief that we deserve a certain kind of life. The story of Jesus being unable to perform many miracles in his hometown because of their lack of faith is striking. It suggests that our collective and individual faith actually matters in what God is able to do among us. That is not a small idea. It is an invitation to take our faith seriously.