

Title: Tug of War: Trusting God Through Interruptions, Loss, and the Pull of Emotion

Sermon Summary: Drawing from Mark chapter 5, this sermon examines two interwoven miracles — the healing of a woman who had been bleeding for twelve years and the raising of Jairus's daughter — as a lens through which to understand the spiritual and emotional tug of war every believer faces. The pastor presents Jesus as one who, though fully human and subject to fatigue, emotional pressure, and competing demands, consistently chose faith over fear and purposeful action over emotional reaction. The central call of the sermon is for believers to move beyond emotional decision-making and anchor themselves in trust that God is Lord of all — including life, death, timing, and healing. The sermon challenges the congregation to stop telling God what to do and instead surrender to His will, recognizing that faith is not a feeling but a settled conviction that what God has said is done.

Key Points:

- The tug of war every believer faces comes from within themselves, from the enemy, and from the circumstances of life pressing against God's peace
- Jesus, though fully human and subject to weariness and competing demands, modeled choosing God's direction over personal comfort or emotional reaction
- The woman with the issue of blood demonstrated that desperate, believing faith — even a small act of reaching out to Christ — brings healing and restoration of dignity
- The word translated "healed" in the woman's story carries the same root as the word for "saved," pointing to the deeper spiritual reality behind physical healing
- Jairus represents the believer caught between desperate need and the fear that comes when circumstances appear to worsen before God acts
- Jesus's command "do not be afraid, only believe" is a call to anchor faith not in visible outcomes but in the unchanging character of God
- Death is addressed directly as something believers must stop avoiding — God ordains the length of days, and trusting Him as Lord of all includes

trusting His sovereignty over life and death

- True peace is not the absence of difficulty but the settled confidence that God has already determined the outcome
- The personal touch of presence — showing up for others — reflects the incarnation itself, as Jesus did not send a message but came in person

Scripture Reference:

- Mark chapter 5, verses 21 through 43, which recounts the healing of the woman with the issue of blood and the raising of Jairus's daughter
- Romans chapter 7, referenced in relation to the internal tug of war Paul describes between the desires of the flesh and the will of God
- Matthew chapter 6, referenced in relation to Jesus's teaching about storing up treasure in heaven, where one's heart follows one's treasure
- Psalm 139, referenced in relation to David's declaration that all of a person's days were ordained before one of them came to be
- Acts chapter 17, referenced in relation to God having determined the times set for people and the exact places they should live
- Hebrews, referenced in relation to Jesus being tempted in every way as humans are, yet without sin

Stories:

- The biblical account of the demon-possessed man in the region of the Gadarenes from the previous week's sermon is referenced as context for Jesus returning across the lake to the crowd gathered on the shore
- The story of Craig Groeschel, a pastor who lost his father and received many texts of condolence but was most deeply moved when a friend showed up in person weeks later, is used to illustrate the irreplaceable value of personal presence and to connect to the truth that God Himself came in the flesh rather than sending another message
- The pastor shares a personal reflection on the death of his own father, describing his conviction that he would not call his father back from heaven even if he could, as a testimony to genuine belief in the goodness of eternal life
- A lighthearted illustration about the difference between a husband's agenda of "nothing" and a wife's detailed list of tasks is used to introduce the idea of competing demands and interrupted plans

- The childhood memory of siblings saying "she's touching me" in the back seat of a car is used humorously to connect to the disciples' confused response when Jesus asked who had touched Him in the crowd