

Beholding Christmas:

*When God's Delays Are Not His Denials*

Mark 5:24-35





**#1**  
**The**  
**Delays**

**While he was still speaking, there came from  
the ruler's house some who said,  
“Your daughter is dead.  
Why trouble the Teacher any further?”**

**Mark 5:35**



***God's grace never works according to our time frame, our schedule, our calendar, our agenda.***





***With Jesus, there is no difference  
between a dying situation and a dead situation.  
His grace can reverse both.***

**<sup>8</sup> But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.**

**<sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.**

**2 Peter 3:8-9**





**#2**  
**The**  
**Lessons**

**#1 Delays teach us that God is doing something deeper**





**#1 Delays teach us that God is doing something deeper**

**#2 Delays shows us the grace of God**





***God does not show us favour because we are good  
or because we are bad. He shows us favour  
because he alone is good.***

**#1 Delays teach us that God is doing something deeper**

**#2 Delays shows us the grace of God**

**#3 Delays Prove That God Is Trustworthy**



He took her by the hand and said to her,  
“Talitha koum!” (which means  
“Little girl, I say to you, get up!”).

Mark 5:41



***Life in a prison cell may well be compared to Advent: one waits, hopes, and does this, that, or the other - things that are really of no consequence - the door is shut and can only be opened from the outside.***

**- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, God is in the Manger**

**While you wait for the door to open, do three things:**

- (1) Wait without losing trust in God**
- (2) Work knowing that God is at work in your heart**
- (3) Fill your heart with Wonder at the hope that is to come**

