

Sermon Notes

Jesus confronts death

A few things I need to remember from hearing today's Bible Reading and teaching.

The Bible Reading

Mark 5:21-24, 35-43

²¹ When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. ²² Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. ²³ He pleaded earnestly with him, "My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live." ²⁴ So Jesus went with him.

A large crowd followed and pressed around him.

³⁵ While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher anymore?"

³⁶ Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, "Don't be afraid; just believe."

³⁷ He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. ³⁸ When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly.

³⁹ He went in and said to them, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep." ⁴⁰ But they laughed at him.

After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the

disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. ⁴¹ He took her by the hand and said to her, "*Talitha koum!*" (which means "Little girl, I say to you, get up!").

⁴² Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. ⁴³ He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat. (NIV)

A prayer

Almighty God and loving heavenly Father, guide me and teach me about you from your Word. Help me and others to see the wisdom and value of living life according to your word the Bible; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

The Bible Study

Read Mark 5:21-24, 35-43

1. Why was Jairus' request so urgent? How might the delay with the healing of the woman have affected his faith?
2. How does Jesus comfort Jairus when he receives the news that his daughter has died (vs. 36)? Consider also what Jairus heard Jesus say to the professional mourners. (vs. 39)

3. When God delays answering our prayers, how can we keep and strengthen our faith in him?
4. Why does Jesus allow only three of his disciples and the girl's parents to witness this miracle? Why does he instruct them not to tell anybody what they saw? (Compare vs. 19 and vs. 30-33)
5. Compare this raising from the dead with similar ones in the Old Testament by Elijah (1 Kings 17:17-24) and Elisha (2 Kings 4:32-35). What are the similarities and differences? What do the differences tell us about Jesus?

5. Death and bereavement are a normal part of life. In fact, when Jesus was on earth, he didn't raise everyone who had died. How is the raising of Jairus' daughter relevant for us today when we are confronted by death?