

## 18. Jesus Raised the Daughter of Jairus

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children learn how to explain to others how they can receive eternal life that will give them inner peace that passes all understanding. That happens as our children learn to clearly explain the meaning of repentance from the sin of unbelief and faith in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

However, the healing of this woman had slowed the progress of Jesus toward the house of Jairus who had asked Jesus to come and heal his daughter. Mark 5:35 says, “While He was still speaking, *some* came from the ruler of the synagogue’s *house* who said, ‘Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?’” Here, we see that Jesus was still talking to the woman who had been healed of the internal bleeding that she had suffered with for twelve years. Suddenly, a messenger arrived from the house of Jairus. This messenger told Jairus that his daughter had died. The messenger then said that it was no use to bother Jesus anymore because it was too late. His daughter was already dead.

Jairus had just seen how Jesus had healed the woman that had touched the robe of Jesus. He had believed that the same thing could happen to his daughter if Jesus would come and touch her. That was why Jairus had gone to Jesus with his request. As a result, this message probably brought great fear and sorrow to the heart of Jairus. We see then that Jesus immediately spoke to Jairus. Mark 5:36-39 says, “As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, ‘Do not be afraid; only believe.’ And He permitted no one to follow Him except Peter, James, and John the brother of James. Then He came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and saw a tumult and those who wept and wailed loudly. When He came in, He said to them, ‘Why make this commotion and weep? The child is not dead, but sleeping.’” Here, we see that Jesus spoke to Jairus immediately because Jesus understood the fear and sorrow that Jairus felt as soon as he heard the message. Jesus urged Jairus to keep on believing.

Luke lets us know that Jesus spoke a few additional words to Jairus that day. Luke 8:50 says, “But when Jesus heard *it*, He answered him, saying, ‘Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well.’” Here, we see that Jesus gave Jairus a promise that his daughter would also be made well. It did not matter to Jesus whether the girl was alive or dead. Jesus had the power to raise her back to life. Jesus later told Martha when her brother died, in John 11:25-26, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?” Jesus is the One who has power over death. That is why Jesus told Jairus, “Do not be afraid; only believe.” Jesus knew that he was immediately filled with fear and sorrow and needed to keep on believing.

When they came to the house of Jairus, we read that Jesus only allowed three disciples, Peter, James and John, to enter the house with Him. These three disciples did certain things with Jesus that none of the other disciples were allowed to do. Mark 9:2 says, “Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and led them up on a high mountain apart by themselves; and He was transfigured before them.” Only these three disciples were given the opportunity to see the glory of God when Jesus was transfigured. Then, Mark 14:33 shows that Jesus took these three into the

Garden of Gethsemane the night that He was betrayed. Mark 14:33-34 says, “And He took Peter, James, and John with Him, and He began to be troubled and deeply distressed. Then He said to them, ‘My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, *even* to death. Stay here and watch.’” These three disciples were allowed to be in the garden at the time of Jesus’ prayer to the Father.

Jairus brought Jesus and these three disciples into his house. There, Jesus saw that there was an uproar going on inside the house. We see that there were a group of people who were weeping and wailing loudly. Matthew 9:23-24 says, “When Jesus came into the ruler’s house, and saw the flute players and the noisy crowd wailing, He said to them, ‘Make room, for the girl is not dead, but sleeping.’ And they ridiculed Him.” We see that there were flute players and a noisy crowd doing this wailing. In that day, professional mourners would quickly hurry to the home of a person that had died and then play sad music and cry loudly. This was their way to make some extra money although it did not mean that they had any real concern for the family of the one that had died.

Jesus immediately spoke to this noisy crowd. Jesus asked the people why they were wailing and weeping. Jesus went on to say that the child was not dead. Instead, Jesus said that the child was sleeping. Jesus often described the death of true followers of God as sleeping. Jesus explained what He meant to the disciples in John 11:11-13, where we read, “These things He said, and after that He said to them, ‘Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up.’ Then His disciples said, ‘Lord, if he sleeps he will get well.’ However, Jesus spoke of his death, but they thought that He was speaking about taking rest in sleep.” After the resurrection, the New Testament often used this word to describe the death of Christians. In 1 Corinthians 15, this word is used four times to describe the death of a Christian. One example is 1 Corinthians 15:20, which says, “But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.” That is the way that Jesus used the word in this verse.

However, the crowd of professional mourners did not understand what Jesus meant. They showed their lack of understanding by immediately changing from wailing and weeping to laughing and mocking. They had probably mourned for many dead people and knew when a person was physically dead. They were trying to humiliate Jesus because He said that she was not dead. Mark 5:40-43 says, “And they ridiculed Him. But when He had put them all outside, He took the father and the mother of the child, and those *who were* with Him, and entered where the child was lying. Then He took the child by the hand, and said to her, ‘Talitha, cumi,’ which is translated, ‘Little girl, I say to you, arise.’ Immediately the girl arose and walked, for she was twelve years *of age*. And they were overcome with great amazement. But He commanded them strictly that no one should know it, and said that *something* should be given her to eat.”

The word translated “ridiculed” means “*to laugh in the face of a person or to laugh a person to scorn.*” These mourners showed that they had a heart of unbelief and did not believe the words of Jesus. As a result, Jesus ordered all of them to leave the house. They did not believe and Jesus was not going to give them the opportunity to see Him raise the girl from the dead. Once the people, who were laughing at Jesus, were put out of the house, Jesus, the father, the mother and the three disciples went to the place where the girl was lying.

As the parents watched, Jesus took the girl by the hand and said, “Talitha, cumi.” The word “Talitha” is the female form of the word meaning “a lamb or a young maiden”. “Cumi” is a command which means “*to arise or get up.*” As a result, when these words are translated they mean, “Little girl, I say to you, arise.” Luke 8:55 says, “Then her spirit returned, and she arose immediately. And He commanded that she be given *something* to eat.” In this verse, we see that the spirit is what gives people physical life. That is why physical death occurs at the moment the spirit and soul are removed from the body. In fact, 2 Corinthians 5:8 says, “We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.” Here, we see that at the very moment the spirit and soul leave the body of a Christian, he is present with the Lord.

We see that the girl immediately got up and started walking. We also see that she was about twelve years of age. Here, we see that full normal life was restored to the girl because she was able to get up and immediately begin walking. Each time Jesus raised a person from the dead back to physical life, we see that the person was also restored to a normal life. In Luke 7:14, we see that Jesus raised the son of the widow of Nain back to life. That verse says, “Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried *him* stood still. And He said, ‘Young man, I say to you, arise.’” Then, in John 11:43, we read, “Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come forth!’ And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, ‘Loose him, and let him go.’” In each case, we see the person restored to normal life.

Jesus then commanded the parents and the disciples not to tell anyone about this miracle. We see in the following chapter that Jesus left that area and went to Nazareth. As a result, Jesus did not want everyone to know about this miracle before He left the area. The main concern of Jesus was to preach the Gospel and not to perform miracles. Luke 19:9-10 says, “And Jesus said to him, ‘Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.’” Jesus healed many people but that was not His primary purpose. His main purpose when He talked to the multitudes was to preach the Gospel. When He talked to the disciples, Jesus was equipping them for ministry when He returned to heaven. In the same way, we also want to keep sharing the Gospel our main purpose when we are talking to those who are not Christians. At the same time, we want to equip Christians for ministry when we are talking to Christians.

We also want to help our physical and spiritual children develop a clear purpose for their lives, both when they are talking to Christians and when they are talking to those who are not Christians. That way their lives will have meaning and purpose as they talk to both Christians and those who are not Christians. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children clearly define their purpose as they serve the Lord.