

Jairus' Daughter Raised from the Dead (Mark 5:22-24, 35-43)

Jairus' faith had really been put to the test. While Jesus had been held up by the woman subject to bleeding for twelve years, men came from his house and told him his daughter had died. That was crushing news - so final! Certainly Jesus could do nothing about death! Their following advice - "*Why do you trouble the Teacher any further?*" - was logical. And it would have been true if Jesus had been only a teacher. But Mark in the opening words of his gospel declared that Jesus Christ *is* the Son of God. Up to this point the miracle about to follow will have been the most convincing proof of that.

Before Jairus could say a word, perhaps to say he was sorry he had bothered Christ, Jesus exclaimed, "*Stop being afraid! Only believe!*" The anguished father put his faith in Jesus and followed Him home. Jesus dismissed the crowd, for they undoubtedly were looking upon Him more as a healer than the promised Saviour, but took Peter, James, and John along as His witnesses. From here on they would be special witnesses of Christ in a number of other instances, when more would have been a crowd, but one would not have been enough (see 2 Corinthians 13:1).

Was the girl actually dead? The evidence is clear. When Jesus and His three disciples and Jairus came to the home, the professional mourners had already been summoned. Burial usually was on the day of death or the following morning. Those who were there knew she was dead. When Jesus said, "*The child is not dead, but asleep,*" they laughed at Him. They knew better.

In the presence of the power of God, however, death is no more than a sleep, as the child's father and mother and the three disciples of Jesus were about to discover. Jesus took the dead girl by the hand and said, "*Talitha koum!*" Immediately she stood up and walked about.

Mark records the actual Aramaic words spoken by Jesus. Thus we hear the life-giving syllables Mark had so often heard from the lips of Peter, an eyewitness. Jesus is indeed the Lord of life and death.

How often later the parents must have told the girl about what Jesus had done for her! The crowds and the professional mourners had not been permitted to witness the miracle. Jesus had ordered the parents not to tell others. Yet the very presence of the girl made it so that the miracle could not be kept secret.

Jesus also cared. He called her "*little girl,*" just as Jairus had called her "*my little daughter.*" He told her parents to give her something to eat. In their amazement they just hadn't thought that far. Jesus knew that after her illness her body needed nourishment. Completely well, she lived an ordinary life again. She needed food and clothing and all the other things her parents could and would provide for her.

We need to look at this miracle and take its meaning to heart. Unless we live until judgment day, we too will die. Loved ones, acquaintances, and past generations have all gone that way. But death is not the end. The eternal Son of God has conquered death not only for Jairus' daughter but also for you and me, for He has paid for the sins of all. He died our death and has promised to raise us up again on the Last Day. Our death too will be but sleep. Awakening from death through His word of power, we shall live with Him forever. And remember, Christ did not do this in secret. There were five witnesses, three of whom were His disciples who later went out and proclaimed Him as the Lord of life. This miracle proclaims His deity and assures us of our salvation.