

Mark 5:35-43

“Hope interrupted”

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I. **Introduction**

We take up the conclusion of the account of Jairus and we left him hearing the words spoken by Jesus to the women who had the issue of blood. He knew this little girl was dead and the delay at the woman’s healing was an encouragement when only a moment later Jairus received the news that she was dead. *“Fear not Jairus, just keep believing, you just saw a glimpse of what I can do if you trust Me!”*

Both of these stories given by Mark are designed to show Jesus’ ability overcome what can only be described as some of the most stress filled events in human life, chronic illness and the death of a loved one. Jesus delay was only visible from Jairus perspective not Jesus’. Jesus never cease to amaze me as I’m driven to worship Him not just because of His ability but because of His great compassion upon people who are terrorized by sorrow. We must not mistakenly believe that Jesus does this for the benefit of the young girl as He is not touched with compassion for her suffering and sorrow, no His compassion fails not for those still bound in this world to this land of death. It was the agony of Jairus and his wife that drove Jesus to bring this little girl back whole to them.

II. Vs. 35-38 Fear stilled, faith stirred

Vs. 35-36 It needs to be mentioned that it had taken his little 12-year-old daughters last breath to bring Jairus to Jesus. Only a few weeks earlier he had MOVED with his board

to ban Jesus from the synagogue in Capernaum. Now he had been MOVED to come to Jesus, a broken man **devoid of his pride, stripped of his theology, emptied of his position** to the feet of Jesus like those he had kicked out of his synagogue. With the words, “*Your daughter is dead*” the ***panic approach***, the ***intense pressure and hurriedness*** has come to a sudden and painful stop. No need to be impatient now, he was too late, “*Why trouble the Teacher any further?*” There is something far worse than the **frenzied fear filled waiting** as a loved one hangs onto life. In our world when **Death takes over human action and effort ends!** Waiting is not the worst thing that can happen because it still means there is hope! But friend Jesus wants to change your view of life and death as we shall see.

Look carefully at the familiar words of those who came to inform Jairus, “*Why trouble the Teacher any further?*” This may surprise you, but in light of the fact that they are aimed at a man who has come to Jesus, I find these words: ******Ironically Pathetic. When would there be a better time to trouble the “Teacher”?****** Is **FEAR** ever a better choice than **FAITH** especially during the time of great trouble like this? **I suggest that in Jairus’ life there had never been a BETTER time to trouble the “Teacher” than this very moment when trouble has crashed through the door of his heart? **What a strange notion we fallen humans have that it is some how impolite or inhospitable to come to a gracious God during our greatest time of trouble. *We don’t come to Him at the very moment we need Him the most and then spend the rest of our lives blaming Him for not doing something on our behalf.***** Why do we insist of dispensing of our greatest and only resource and comfort when we need Him the most? We say, “*It’s too late, it’s no use*” but the truth is: ***The more desperate our need, the more hopeless our situation the***

greater our need for Him! We flee from our only help and hope out of some macabre sense of polite hospitality. Come with me to God's personal invite in Psalm 50 verse 15 where He personally invites us to "***Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.***" The invite is to exchange your fear for faith and the only cost is noted in Jesus' words in verse 36 "*Do not be afraid; only believe.*"

I further submit to you that the delay of Jesus due to the pressing crowds and healing of the woman was a great blessing. Jairus was about to experience two very important truths:

1. With Jesus **hope needs not to depart when delay interrupts.** God is not in a hurry as His delays are not denials!
2. **Faith need not lesson when the situation changes from little hope to **NO hope.**** Though the situation may have changed the **ANSWER** has **NOT!** Our time of trouble is not a TEST for Jesus but rather one for us. It is for this reason the trouble has come, His interruptions are important! His delays are not denials but they very well may be discipline. Jairus needed to have his **fear stilled** and his **faith stirred!**

Vs. 37-38 Mark informs his readers that the witnesses to what was about to take place was to be by **invite only** as Jesus permitted only 7 including Himself: Three disciples, Peter, James and his brother John. The parents Mr. and Mrs. Jairus as well as their deceased 12-year-old daughter. Gone and dispensed were to be the professional mourners that were common place according to Jewish customs. Their actions were far different than the victorious hope of the Christian faith. Immediately at death loud wailing was set up so that all might know that death had taken a life, it was also present at the grave side.

The mourners would hang over the dead begging for a response from the dead's silent lips. They would beat their own breasts, tear out their hair and rend their garments all done according to specific rules. The garments were to be rent from the heart until the skin was exposed but not beyond the navel. Parents were to rend their clothes on the left over the heart all others over the right side. The garment was worn for 30 days and only after 7 days could they be sown up roughly but the tear still had to be visible. After the 30 days it could be properly repaired. The flute was used to connect with death and even the poor were to have at least two flute players at their wife's death. The wail of flutes and the screaming cries of mourners were seen as passionate appeals to the dead. When death came those in mourning were forbidden to work for three days and this was extended even for their servants. They were to wear shoes and instead were to sit with their head bound up. They were not to shave or do anything for their own comfort. They weren't to read the law or the prophets or anything that would aid them in joy, they could only read Job, Jeremiah or lamentations. They must eat only at their own homes and could not leave their villages for 30 days and partake of no wine or meat. They could eat eggs only if they were dipped in ashes and salt and all water was to be removed from their and three houses on either side of theirs as they believed that the angel of death procured death by dipping a sword in water. They were not allowed to go to the synagogue and receive any comfort. This was the scene in which Jesus, Jairus and those three disciples entered.

III. Vs. 39-43 O death where is your sting

Vs. 39-40 Jesus says to them in the Greek she has died but that she won't stay that way, that's the meaning of the word sleeping in the Greek. Jesus' words caused two reactions:

1. **To the mourners**: Ridicule, as they laughed at Him to put Him down which must have been very awkward to do so when only a moment ago they were screaming so loudly as mourners. These mourners failed to realize is that *death is not the separation of the body from the souls but rather it is the separation of the soul from God!* Jesus commanding the room kicked them all out forcefully like He would do when He drove the money changers from the temple.
2. **To Jairus and the disciples**: Astonishment, yet Jesus takes them under His care coming alongside as He guides the grief-stricken parents and fear full disciples who were confronted with death in reassurance of His loving care.

The word “*entered*” in the Greek is a word that is used of a person going on a journey as it conveys the idea of a great distance or a long walk. To these parents though this little girl lies only a few years from where they were it might as well have been on the other side of the world from where they wanted to be and they did not yet view the traveling their filled with glorious possibilities and endless wonder but something to be feared and avoided.

Vs. 41-43 The words “Great amazement” is the word where we get our English word “*ecstasy*” describing someone removed for joy from their senses. The actions of Jesus left an unforgettable impact upon all as recorded by Peter, who no doubt retold this story to Mark. Jesus took hold of this cold lifeless hand to help her up at the same time Jesus said as Peter records in His native tongue “*Talitha cumi*”. Notice that Mark does not translate it into the Greek for his readers. This indicates that these are the very words Peter heard that day. What comfort “Little lamb, arise” and death was dealt a deadly blow. But remember that this was not done for the little girl’s sake. Jesus called her back to pain,

heartache, worry, weariness and ultimately death. No, Jesus did this for the father and mother whose heart had been broken. The miracle is accompanied by two requests:

1. **That it would not be published all around**: This would have caused Jesus to receive every invitation to every funeral. Jesus wanted to change the view believers would have with regards to death. He doesn't always alleviate sickness and death but for those that trust Him He always eliminates the fear it has upon us. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:55, "*Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your sting? O hades where is your victory?*" Such hope keeps us steady in a world gripped by fear. We have not been removed from death but we have been forever removed from death's fear.
2. **That this little girl be given food to eat**: This not only told the parents that not only was she alive, she was back to normal and delivered back to them for her care.

The mourners laughed at Jesus when they believed that hope and faith were pointless at His claim. ***But the great truth of the Christian life is that when life looks it's worst and the circumstances are impossible things are never more possible with our Lord.*** The laughter that was scorn and ridicule was transformed into joy and worship! There is nothing we can't face and be victorious in when we are facing it in the hand of our Jesus because He alone has conquered death through His love!