

LORD OF LIFE

The instantaneous healing of the determined woman in Luke 8:40-56 must have caused Jairus' heart to soar with hope. In his desperation, he had just asked Jesus to come heal his daughter. But all this had been interrupted by an afflicted woman who touched Christ in the crowd.

By the way, that's why you need to share your testimony with others, not only in church. What Jesus has done for you can be just the encouragement that others need, to trust Him too.

DEATH OF HOPE - Luke says that while Jesus was still speaking to the woman, someone from Jairus' house came up and said, "*your daughter is dead, do not trouble the Teacher any more.*" How Jairus' heart must have ached. He was no doubt happy the woman was healed. But this detour and delay had now cost the life of his dear daughter. You have felt this emotion, when God heals someone else but not you or your loved one. But don't ever give up hope in Jesus!

Jesus said, "*Do not fear, only believe, and she will be well.*" These words also reveal to us the "grand secret of comfort in the hour of need," says JC Ryle, "to exercise faith, to fall back on Christ's loving heart and mighty hand. In a word, believe." Jairus' journey of faith began by asking for divine healing, but now he needed the miracle of resurrection.

DO NOT WEEP - No one entered the house except Jesus, Peter, John, James, and the parents of the child. This is the first instance of the inner circle of Jesus, the gospel source for this private moment. Everyone was weeping and mourning, but Jesus said, "*Do not weep, for she is not dead but sleeping.*" Luke says "*they laughed at Him, knowing that she was dead.*" Death was a daily occurrence. There were professional mourners there. Everyone knew the girl was dead.

"Jesus is not denying the girl had really died," notes RC Sproul, "He is denying that death is final." He knows what He will do, as He said, "*do not fear, only believe, and she will be well.*" Taking her by the hand, Jesus said, "*Child, arise!*" and her spirit returned. She got up at once, and He asked that she be given something to eat. Mark 5 records the Aramaic that Jesus spoke, "*Talitha cum, little girl, I say to you arise.*" She got up and walked. The people were overcome with amazement.

DEATH TO LIFE - This was no gradual healing, but an instantaneous miracle. Only God can do this. Numbers 19:11 prohibits touching a corpse, lest you be made unclean. But Jesus' touch brings life. "True death is not the separation of the soul from the body, but the separation of the soul from God," says RK Hughes. "Her dead body was asleep, and Jesus brought it to life."

Luke says the parents were amazed, but Jesus charged them to tell no one what had happened. When Jesus raised the widow's son in Luke 7, the news spread through all of Judea and the surrounding country, as Matthew 9 says, in spite of Jesus telling them to keep quiet. He didn't want too much attention in Galilee, because of the authorities. His time had not yet come.

DIVINE DELIVERANCE - "Let us not be ashamed to let all men know what Jesus has done for our souls," counsels Ryle. Christ promised deliverance for believers. And He says, "*do not fear, only believe.*" There is reverent fear, which is the appropriate awe-ful fear of worship. And there is irreverent fear in the face of divine information, disbelieving God's words. That's why God says, even through angels, "*do not fear,*" because when God is at work, you must trust Him.

Fear is often because of the absence of God's truth. You are either ignorant of it or ignoring it. Fear might be the only thing that travels faster than a virus! But Jesus says, have faith, believe. Trust in Him, and trust what He has said and written down in the Scriptures.

DIVINE PROMISE - "Christ instructs real faith, even when it is imperfect," notes Hughes. Remember, faith is always in something. Faith is nothing by itself. It must be trust in a trustworthy object of faith. People think that if they just have "enough" faith that God will answer.

"But faith itself does not do the healing, God does," explains WA Grudem. "The woman's faith was the divinely appointed means for her bodily healing, as well as for spiritual salvation." Cults teach that your faith makes God do what you want. But what if you don't get what you want?

Then they say that it is your faith that is at fault. If you pray for healing but are not healed, then they say you didn't have enough faith. Such terrible heresy destroys faith, notes Grudem. In contrast, true faith believes in God and His Word, and receives what He promises! ☐