

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost – May 6, 2018

Good Shepherd Ev. Lutheran Church

Pastor Charles Heup

Mark 5:21-24, 35-43 (NIV)

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.

Friends in Christ Jesus,

How did things go for you last week? Did everything fall into place exactly as you planned, or did you encounter a few bumps in the road? Perhaps our answer to that question will depend on our personalities – the person who always looks at life with a glass half full kind of attitude might give a pretty-upbeat answer – things were great. On the other hand, a person who has a glass half-empty point of view might have a negative response – things were awful!

No matter what our point of view might be – the reality is that as we go through life we will experience our share of “ups and downs”. The Psalmist wasn't being a pessimist when he wrote: **Our days may come to seventy years, or eighty, if our strength endures; yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away.** (Psalm 90:10) He was simply stating the reality of life in a world filled with sin to point us to the blessings provided to us by our gracious God.

Jesus did the same thing in our text when he said:

Theme: Don't be Afraid, Just Believe.

1. Come to Jesus with your troubles 2. Don't stop believing 3. Jesus will provide the solution

Jairus, the synagogue leader in our text was experiencing first-hand the troubles and sorrows of life in this world. His heart ached because his little girl was sick and near death. Jesus wasn't a stranger in this region. Jesus had healed the Centurion's servant and the nobleman's son in this area. The Centurion had built the synagogue where Jairus served as a leader taking care of the administrative duties at his place of worship. Jesus had also taught in this place of worship on occasion so Jairus had ample reason to come to Jesus in his time of trouble.

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."

Jairus' daughter was actually 12 years old but no matter how old a loving father's daughter might be – they will always be “daddy's little girl” in the eyes of their loving father. His little girl needed the kind of help that only Jesus could provide. Her father came to Jesus and knelt before him in prayer – please come. Touch her so she will be saved and live.

Maybe your troubles aren't as “serious” as the situation that faced Jairus but that shouldn't stop you from coming to Jesus with them. Jesus has extended us a wonderful invitation and a promise: **Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.** (Matthew 11:28 NIV)

When troubles enter your life, as you can be sure they will, Don't be afraid, believe and come to Jesus. But what happens when things go from bad to worse in our lives? That's what happened to Jairus. He had come to Jesus with his prayer. Jesus had responded by agreeing to go with him.

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?"

As Jesus was headed to Jairus' house – it seems he got delayed and sidetracked. Our tells us that a large crowd was pressing close to Jesus and then it skips some verses because it is focused on the account of Jairus. In the verses that are omitted from our Gospel reading for today we learn that Jairus wasn't the only one who had a problem that needed Jesus' help. There was a woman in the crowd who had health issues of her own and who had exhausted all her resources without being able to receive any relief. We are told that she suffered from some sort of a bleeding issue and that in spite of her efforts to get relief her problem had grown worse. She had heard about Jesus and thought, **"If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed."** (29) **Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.** (30) **At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?"** (Mark 5:28-30 NIV)

Mark tells us that Jesus kept looking around to see who had touched him and that ultimately the woman who had been healed came to Jesus and told him everything that had happened. Jesus said to her: **"Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."** (Mark 5:34 NIV)

Precious moments were lost as Jesus was “stuck in traffic” and then delayed his trip to the home of Jairus to seek out and comfort the woman who had been healed. The delay may have only been five or ten minutes – but in an emergency every second counts and a minute can seem like an eternity. But Jesus had a purpose in mind. He not only wanted to comfort the woman and strengthen her faith, he also wanted to challenge Jairus' faith. Our text continues: **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?"**

I can't begin to imagine how Jairus must have felt. Help was on the way. He had done his best but his best fell short. Frustration, disappointment and anger are some of the emotions that would be natural in a

situation like that. But before any of those emotions could take hold **Jesus told (Jairus), "Don't be afraid; just believe."**

The men who came to Jairus told him to stop bothering Jesus. In their minds, there was nothing Jesus could do since the girl had died. Jesus wanted Jairus and us to know and understand that his power is not limited – his power is divine and he has authority over all things – even death. “Don’t stop believing,” Jesus told Jairus, when things “went from bad to worse.” The more helpless we are the more distinctly we can see that our help comes from the Lord.

Those words are important for us too. Sometimes it seems like Jesus is taking his sweet time in coming to our aid. Sometimes our troubles increase before we experience relief. We might wonder, “Does Jesus care?” “Will he help?” “Can he help?” Once again, a promise of God reminds us not to be afraid but to believe: God has said, “**Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.**” (Hebrews 13:5 NIV) Jesus himself reminds us: “**all things are possible with God.**” (Mark 10:27 NIV)

In the opening verse of Mark’s Gospel, Mark called Jesus Christ the Son of God. The miracles that Jesus performed and that Mark recorded in his Gospel are proof of Jesus divinity. The miracle in our text shows just how powerful God really is. He has power not just over wind and waves or sickness but even death itself.

Don’t be Afraid, Just Believe.

1. Come to Jesus with your troubles 2. Don’t stop believing 3. Jesus will provide the solution

Jesus continued on his journey to the home of Jairus. **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.**

Peter, James and John would serve as eye-witnesses to confirm what had actually happened. Any more than two or three would have simply gotten in the way. The commotion with people crying and wailing is proof that Jairus’ daughter had died. In New Testament times, even the poorest man was obligated to have two flute players and one mourner present at the death of his wife. Jairus was a prominent official so a much larger group of mourners would be required on this occasion. These were professional mourners who had been hired for this occasion. When we understand that at this time burial would have taken place on the day of the death or at the very latest the next morning – it will not surprise us to learn that by the time Jairus arrived at his home with Jesus that the funeral ritual was well underway. There was no doubt that the girl was dead and Jesus understood this – just as later in his ministry he understood that Lazarus had died. But for Jesus – the Lord of life death is simply a sleep from which he will wake us.

Peter, James and John together with girl parents are about to witness this first hand. Jesus sent the mourners home. **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 kum!" (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.**

Jesus took Jairus daughter by the hand and said, "**Talitha koum!**" Mark repeats for us the very words that Jesus himself spoke: "**Talitha koum!**" Little girl, get up. Those words were filled with Divine power - **Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around.** Jairus little girl was precious to Jesus – she was his little girl too. After calling her back to life from death – Jesus reminded her parents to continue to take care of her – to give her something to eat.

The mere presence of the girl was evidence of the miracle that Jesus had performed – no further explanation was needed. As he often did following his miracles, Jesus gave orders not to let anyone know about the details because people did not yet understand his Messianic mission. No doubt Jairus and his wife must have often reminded their daughter of what Jesus had done for her and how Jesus had provided the solution to their “problem.”

Jarius came to Jesus in his time of need, he continued to put his faith in him and Jesus provided the solution to his problem. Whatever problems we are experiencing right now, whatever problems will confront us in the future – Jesus has the solution.

Don't be Afraid, Just Believe.

1. Come to Jesus with your troubles 2. Don't stop believing 3. Jesus will provide the solution

None of us that I know of are dealing with the death of a loved one today – but even if we were Jesus is the solution.

Jesus, the Son of God, didn't just put an end to death for Jairus daughter. He conquered death for you and for me by dying for our sins and rising from the dead. Because he lives – death has no hold on us. In Jesus, death is a blessed sleep from which none ever wakes to weep. (cf. CW 605) Amen.