

“Jesus Sightings: In the House”

Mark 5:21-24, 35-43

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A Jesus Sighting. We have already talked about a Jesus Sighting at the River, in the storm and with an outcast. Today a Jesus sighting In The House.

Let's again look at **Verse 22 and 23: <sup>22</sup> Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, and seeing him, he fell at his feet <sup>23</sup> and implored him earnestly, saying, “My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live.”**

Note that this one who is calling on Jesus is Jairus one of the rulers of the synagogue. As a ruler of the synagogue we would presume that he had a trust in God. He sees the Son of God, Jesus and notice what he does. This dignified synagogue ruler falls at the feet of Jesus. It shows his desperation. Scripture says he implores him earnestly....he begs him. There is an indication of faith and trust. Come, he says, lay hands on her....why...so that she may be made well and live. Jairus had trust. Oh, but trust is so hard. And when we are in desperate situations trust is even that much more difficult.

Did you notice the invitation? “Come.” Has Jesus received an invitation to “Come” into your house? Have you given the invitation to others to come into God's house? Today we received 21 New Members. We have a goal this year of receiving at least 100 new members. But it is more than about an invitation to membership....it's about an invitation to faith. As I talked to the New Members last Sunday night I shared with them that it is an expectation that every member we receive at PHUMC have a faith in Jesus. That is what the vows they took say. It is not a perfect faith, in fact it may be a beginner's faith, but nonetheless a basic faith where they believe and have accepted that Jesus has forgiven them of their sins.

On March 6<sup>th</sup> is.....Harvest America....we are to be praying for the lost. We want to invite them especially to that special ministry evening. But you know we can pray and invite now.

I want to thank Karen Gross for sharing with me an excellent illustration about inviting:

A single guy decided life would be more fun if he had a pet. So he went to the pet store and told the owner that he wanted to buy an unusual pet. After some discussion, he finally bought a talking centipede, (100-legged bug), which came in a little white box to use for his house.

He took the box back home, found a good spot for the box, and decided he would start off by taking his new pet to church with him.

So he asked the centipede in the box, "Would you like to go to church with me today? We will have a good time." But there was no answer from his new pet.

This bothered him a bit, but he waited a few minutes and then asked again, "How about going to church with me and receive blessings?" But again, there was no answer from his new friend and pet. So he waited a few minutes more, thinking about the situation.

The guy decided to invite the centipede one last time. This time he put his face up against the centipede's house and shouted, "Hey, in there! Would you like to go to church with me and learn about God?"

This time, a little voice came out of the box, "I heard you the first time! I'm putting my shoes on!"

Oh beloved, we will wait....but please keep inviting. Invite them to this house, God's house to receive the message about our Father's house...a place that has been prepared for those who believe.

Getting back to our scripture it is evident that Jairus had Trust. He wanted Jesus to come that his daughter may be made well and live. However as we pick the story up again in verse 35 "while he was still speaking" Jairus is told that his daughter is dead.

I can't help but wonder what Jairus reaction was. Was his trust gone? Did Jesus wait too long? You know in many ways Jesus timing is always right on time although we often don't understand it at the time.

Jesus responds by saying, "Do not fear, only believe." But Jesus....I trusted you and my daughter is dead. How can I trust you?

In the duet sung by Whitney and Mariah, I mean by Kelly and Julia we find the song entitled "When You Believe." Jesus says only believe. That song sung was an Oscar winning song from the 1998 animated movie The Prince of Egypt. Did you hear that part that said, "There can be miracles when you believe. Though hope is frail it's hard to kill." Let me repeat that first line... "There can be miracle when you believe." And Jesus said, "Do not fear, only believe." Ah, but Jairus daughter is dead.....to not fear and only believe is very very difficult in a situation like this.

He goes into the house with Peter, James, and John who were known as the inner circle and had the privilege of seeing some special miracles that Jesus performed. Yes they came to the house and Jesus entered..... Jesus is in the house!!!!

Now if I said, "Cam Newton is in the house!!!!" Perhaps you would look around and wonder where he was. Or if I said, "Peyton Manning is in the house!!!!" You would crane your neck and see where he was sitting. We get excited over celebrity sightings.

I used the following story in a sermon in 2011. The story I think is what is called urban legend. But it is still a good story so I'm going to use it. It was reported that the person that this is about is Paul Newman...but some say Robert Redford, some say Ben Affleck....so very likely it is a

made up story...but nonetheless there's a message behind the story. So pick whatever hunk of man you want and here this illustration.

Several years ago a woman in Kansas City walked into a Haagen-Dazs ice cream shop at a shopping center. While waiting, she turned to find actor Paul Newman (or pick your own hunky hunk handsome he-man) standing behind her. Anyway, Newman was in town filming a movie. This lady couldn't believe it. She was his biggest fan. He smiled at her and said "hello." She took one look at those legendary blue eyes and her knees almost buckled. Her heart was in her throat. She tried to speak but not a sound came out. She was embarrassed; she turned around, paid for her ice cream, and then quickly walked out of the store.

Outside she sat down on a bench and had to catch her breath---she had just seen Paul Newman. Paul Newman had just spoken to her. As she calmed down, she realized she didn't have her ice cream cone. She was debating walking back in to get it when, yes, you guessed it, Paul Newman walks out. He looked at her again, and this time he said, "Are you looking for your ice cream cone?" She was speechless, so she just nodded. Newman said, "You put it in your purse with your change."

Oh star struck. A celebrity. Let me very clear.... "Jesus is in the house!!!! Be star struck for He made the stars!!!!" He's in the house!!!!!!" Do you have that expectation, that thrill, that adrenaline rush. Do you have a case of woo-hoo-ism. "Jesus is in the house!!! Right now! He's right here!!! And here!!!! And here!!!!

If you would put your ice-cream in your purse when you come face to face with a celebrity what do you do when you come face to face with Jesus? And yet "Jesus is in the house!!"---right now.

Jesus who is in Jairus house takes hold of this 12 year old girl and takes her by the hand. Now again we find a rebel Jesus....she was dead which made her unclean. So again as we did last week when Jesus touched the leper, we find Him touching an outcast....touching a dead person would render a person unclean. Mark who is telling the story slips into the common language of Aramaic as he has Jesus proclaim, "Talitha Cumi." "Little girl, I say to you, arise." She immediately got up and began walking.

The mother and father and Peter, James and John saw this, but imagine when the little girl left her room and the people saw her. Whoa.....I see dead people. No, I see the dead come back to life because Jesus is in the house. It says people were overcome with amazement. Ya think? What shock? What belief? "There can be miracles when you believe." It boils down to trust. It is so hard to have true and complete trust. I tried to find a well known acronym for TRUST, but I couldn't find one. I was left with no alternative to come up with my own. Here is my attempt:

**Totally  
Rely  
Upon  
Savior's  
Timing**

The timing is God's. Jairus wanted Jesus to come immediately. But Jesus didn't. Jairus found out his daughter was dead. What kind of timing is this? However the father followed and somehow showed what trust is. Oh, to Totally Rely Upon Savior's Timing.

Recently I was struggling with something in prayer. In my spirit I heard God say, "Have I not brought you in this situation thus far?" My answer was "Yes." "Then how can you not think I will bring it to completion?" This situation actually consumed my mind. I went to bed thinking/praying about this situation. Again in my spirit I heard Trust, and I said, But Lord, and then I heard again Trust. And I did...for a second, till I turned my head on the pillow and then I said, But....and then again I heard in my spirit....Trust. Let me have it. Trust

Jesus was in the house. I relinquished. I was at peace, and I fell asleep.

Oh....it is so hard to trust. Oh Jesus did the miracles then...but what about now? Are there miracles he does in your house? Are there miracles he has done in this, God's house? We have heard of some of those miracles in recent Jesus Sighting testimonies. Even though we want to, it is still so hard to trust.

**(Video---Trust Fall, Sermonspice)**

Oh just to take Him at His word.

Oh for grace to trust him more. Oh for grace to trust him more.