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**Sermon Series:** Owning a Faith that Matters.

**To be used with Session 3: Expectant Faith**

**Sermon Title Possibilities: Faith Over Our Situations**

**Scripture:** Luke 8:41-42; 49-56

**Connection with Unit Theme:**  To complement the Bible study “Expectant Faith” this sermon will journey the story of Jairus that approaches Jesus to heal his only daughter. Jairus is a leader of the synagogue and is among a few leaders that has not doubted the authority of Jesus and his power. Jairus’s faith will be tested as he observes Jesus and His power to heal. James 1:2-4 states, “consider it a great joy, my brothers, and sisters, whenever you experience various trials, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.[[1]](#footnote-1)” Like Jairus, this sermon will prove that all of us must develop a foundation of faith over our situations.

**Introduction:** Jairus is a father that cannot fathom his daughter dying before the age of accountability. Luke and other gospel writers are clear to mention a sequence of happenings that require faith over these situations. Jairus believes that Jesus could be the promised Messiah. Many other synagogue leaders were plotting evil against Jesus. But Jairus had to embrace the truth about Jesus’ power to heal his daughter. What would he do to save a child? He placed his faith in Jesus over his situation. This is much like how we should be as Christians. There is much in this world to distract us from our faith. But we must be steadfast and committed to faith over fear, and Jesus’s power to save.

1. **Faith over Sickness (Luke 8:41-42).**

This passage opens with Jairus developing an expectant heart to receive Jesus after his journey from the region of Gerasene. While Jesus was healing in that region the people became afraid and asked him to leave. Jesus performed several miracles, but one was the healing of a demon possessed man that was bound for many years. The man was extremely appreciative, but the people in the region feared Jesus and the power he displayed. Jesus instructed the man that was possessed to go back to his home and tell everyone of what God had done for him. However, Jesus arrives in Galilee to crowds of people including Jairus in an act of faith to save his daughter from sickness. What are you willing to do for salvation? We must be willing to believe despite our situations. The demon possessed and Jairus are examples of a display of faith over sickness.

1. **Faith over Fear (Luke 8:49-52).**

Jesus is the Savior of the world, and the author of Luke is clear that he experienced troubles alongside those who place their faith in him. However, ultimately, he will rid the world of trouble through his shed blood on our behalf. John 16:33 says it this way, “I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world.” [[2]](#footnote-2) As Jesus was making his way to Jairus’ home there had been a slight delay along the way. Jesus recognized in crowds of people an act of faith that healed a woman with an issue of blood for 12 years. Upon traveling further someone coming from the home of Jairus announces that his daughter had died. However, Jesus quickly responds, “Don’t be afraid. Only believe, and she will be saved.”[[3]](#footnote-3) We all are prone to fear in this life, but we must choose faith over fear even when life gets hard.

1. **Faith over death (Luke 8:53-56).**

Each miracle Jesus performed was uniquely individual and pointed to his divinity and authority. Jairus was a leader in the synagogue and a man well acquainted within religion. However, he sought out Jesus instead of the leaders and teachers to which he was accustomed. Jesus taught with authority and displayed a power over sickness unlike the leaders at the time. We all will face death at some point or another. Hebrews 9:27, 28 reads, “And just as it is appointed for people to die once—and after this, judgment—so also Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.[[4]](#footnote-4)” Jesus proves his authority once again when he orders Jairus daughter to get up and her spiritual returns to her body. The author is displaying that Jesus has the power to heal the physical and the spiritual. There is no place that doesn’t obey his call. This is an encouragement for us as Christians. We can have faith over death, because our Lord has overcome the dead.

**Conclusion:** What has been troubling you in life? Christ has the victory over sins, sickness, our fears, and death. Our faith is rooted and established in the finished work of Christ. The author of *In Christ Alone* Stuart Townend proclaims it this way, “No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me; From life’s first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny. No power of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand: Till He returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I’ll stand.” We can be confident in faith over every situation. This is how we can stand in the light of the truth of Christ.

**Author Bio**

Jason Thomas serves with International Mission Board (IMB) as African American Church Mobilization Strategist in Virginia. Previously, he served as the Ministry Director for college students with Louisiana Baptists. Jason has been married to his wife, Gaynel for 13 years and holds a Master of Divinity from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

1. [*Christian Standard Bible*](https://ref.ly/logosres/csb?ref=BibleCSB2.Jas1.2&off=22&ctx=IALS+AND+MATURITY%0a2%C2%A0~Consider+it+a+great+) (Jas 1:2–4). (2020). Holman Bible Publishers. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [*Christian Standard Bible*](https://ref.ly/logosres/csb?ref=BibleCSB2.Jn16.33&off=0&ctx=Father+is+with+me.t+~33%C2%A0I+have+told+you+t) (Jn 16:33). (2020). Holman Bible Publishers. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. [*Christian Standard Bible*](https://ref.ly/logosres/csb?ref=BibleCSB2.Lk8.50&off=42&ctx=t%2c+he+answered+him%2c+~%E2%80%9CDon%E2%80%99t+be+afraid.+On) (Lk 8:50). (2020). Holman Bible Publishers. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. [*Christian Standard Bible*](https://ref.ly/logosres/csb?ref=BibleCSB2.Heb9.27&off=3&ctx=ice+of+himself.x+27%C2%A0~And+just+as+it+is+ap) (Heb 9:27–28). (2020). Holman Bible Publishers. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)