

THANK HEAVEN FOR LITTLE GIRLS!

THE RESURRECTION OF JAIRUS' DAUGHTER

This famous story of the Bible is found in Matthew, Mark and Luke. Jesus waited until there was no human hope or instrumentality available before He acted on her father's request. The Lord often does His greatest work when human help is no longer available. Let's examine this story and allow God to use it for the rest of your life to be an encouragement.

I. God's clock is always on time.

Mark 5:21

There is a phrase given in this verse that the casual reader may glance over, but not the student of Scripture. Genesis 49:10 says, "...Unto him shall the gathering of the people be." The promise of God given almost 1,700 years before Jesus walked on the earth said that when Shiloh (a name for Messiah) would come, people would be drawn to Him. Sometimes earthly clocks lose time and have to be re-set but not God's clock; 1,700 years after this prophecy we see that God has not lost one minute in His Divine timing.

The nicest timepiece I have ever been given came on my forty-fifth anniversary of the ministry. (By the way, thank you, Christchurch, for this very nice gift from your heart of love to your pastor.) By any standard, it is probably one of the nicest watches in the world. And yet an unusual thing happened -- it did not keep time and then suddenly quit. I took it back to the jeweler and the jeweler examined it and apologetically told me he was sorry, there was nothing he could do to fix it. Then he smiled and said, "It will be no problem; we will send it back to the manufacturer." The jeweler sent it back to the watchmaker. When it was returned, it was explained to me that the watchmaker took it apart (over 200 parts) and carefully put it back together. Think of it; there was only one piece not working among 199 other pieces working properly, but the watchmaker knew where and how to repair that one broken part. As a matter of fact, I was told that one small piece had to be shipped in all the way from Switzerland. Today I have a watch keeping perfect time.

When we lose sense of time, it only makes sense to understand that we need to go to the One who made us. He keeps perfect time and He has no problem putting us on His time. He knows where the missing part of our life can be repaired (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

II. The approach to God should always be in reverence.

Mark 5:22

In Matthew 9:18 and 19, the story is told like this, *"While he spake these things unto them, behold, there came a certain ruler, and worshipped him, saying, My daughter is even now dead: but come and lay thy hand upon her, and she shall live. And Jesus arose, and followed him, and so did his disciples."* In Mark's version it says Jairus *"...fell at His (Jesus') feet"* (Mark 5:22c). Luke says it like this, *"...he fell down at Jesus' feet..."* (Luke 8:41b). The Greek word for "worship" used here is "proskuneo" meaning to kiss, like a dog licking his master's hand; to fawn or crouch to, i.e. (literally or figuratively) prostrate one's self in homage (do reverence to, adore). In ancient days the subject would kneel at the King's feet with his forehead touching the ground before the feet of the ruler. This is the position that Jairus took. Because we are blessed in America to be in a government where this is not the custom, sometimes it is difficult for us to comprehend what the Lordship of Christ means. For instance, it is still the custom in England for men to bow from the waist and the ladies to curtsy when brought before the queen. And you cannot reach out your hand to touch royalty; you can only touch the queen if she first extends her hand. Then you are allowed to gently respond by reaching back and you never pump or shake her extended hand. One is never allowed to touch her elbow as if going to direct her. You don't direct the monarch; the monarch directs you. Then when you are exiting the room after having had audience with Her Majesty (and by the way that's what you call her), you cannot turn you back on her. You must keep your face toward her until you get to the door.

There is no doubt in my mind that we would receive so much more from our Lord if we would treat Him like He is Lord Supreme. God's Word takes the analogy of our frame of reference of earthly monarchies and raises it to the highest level when Jesus is referred to as *"...The blessed and only Potentate, the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords"* (I Timothy 6:15).

III. The Lord Jesus not only hears but responds to our deepest need.

Mark 5:23,24

There are so many verses in the Bible that give us this promise. Here are just a few: Psalm 102:2a: *"Hide not thy face from me in the day when I am in trouble...."* Psalm 77:2a: *"In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord...."* Psalm 37:39: *"But the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD: he is their strength in the time of trouble."* Psalm 46:1: *"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."*

Psalm 107:28: *"Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses."* Psalm 108:12: *"Give us help from trouble: for vain is the help of man."* Psalm 34:17: *"The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles."* What a blessing to know that God has the ability to deliver us -- not from some, but from all our troubles!

IV. There are lessons to be learned from interruptions.

Mark 5:25-36

While Jesus was going with Jairus to his house, a woman who had a severe problem for twelve years interrupted the Master while in route and received a healing. What do we learn from this parenthesis?

A. There is nothing parenthetical with God.

This was not a plan "B," this is all part of plan "A." The Bible says, *"Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge"* (Psalm 19:2). Every day is arranged by God. And every day He arranges goodness and mercy to follow His children! *"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever"* (Psalm 23:6).

B. We are not the only ones who have needs.

Jesus said, *"And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd"* (John 10:16).

C. The delay that causes death only promises a greater resurrection.

In Mark 5:39, the Lord uses the term “sleeping” which is His way of promising all believers that our death is never permanent!

D. The interruption became a classroom on faith building.

In Mark 5:36 Jesus asked Jairus to believe. He did not require everyone to believe. He is asked the one who wants to see the miracle most to pray. It is the people who love those who are hurting and need help from the Lord that should stay earnest in their prayers. For it is the person who loves the most who is most likely to have that prayer answered. Christ said, “...*only believe.*” Praise the Lord! this was the only requirement! It is not what I do, but what He does that makes the difference.

It is very important to point out that Christ evicted all those who did not believe out of the room (Mark 5:37-40). Faith grows in a believing atmosphere, never in a mocking or non-believing atmosphere.

V. The Lord never asks us to do something that we, through Him, cannot do.

Mark 5:41, 42

Behind every command of God He places His omnipotence! Philippians 4:13 reminds us, “*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*” In I Peter 4:11, Peter told ministers, “*If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...*” I am ever mindful that when I get up to preach that I am under His authority. And then Peter tells everyone, “...*if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*” What a great Word this is! God is saying, “Don’t say you cannot do His will. Whatever His will is for your life, He gives the ability to perform the doing of it (Philippians 2:13)! The reason God is so desirous for us to do through and with Him what only He can do through and with us, is so that He may receive the glory. When others see God doing what only God can do, they are far more likely to believe.

Conclusion:

When I read Mark 5:43, I always get a smile on my face. Christ “...*commanded*

that something should be given her to eat.” In other words, now let’s get on with life! As great as that moment was when this girl was brought back to life, Christ was also in the daily seemingly mundane things of encouraging others to get her a bite to eat. After all, He does promise daily bread. Too many times we think we are not really living unless we are in the midst of outstanding drama. Not so! We serve a God of small things as well as big things. “For who hath despised the day of small things?” (Zechariah 4:10). Even the small things become big things when God is in it.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Johnny Pope". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.