

Jairus

“Loyal Followers”



“And, behold, there cometh one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name; and when he saw him, he fell at his feet, And besought him greatly, saying, My little daughter lieth at the point of death: I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live.” Mark 5: 22-23

Have you ever been so desperate that you just didn't know what to do? There are many people like that in the Bible. I know that I have been in that situation many times. We meet two of them in the story of Jairus. The other person, a woman, does not even have her name mentioned, but she had a great faith that Jesus could help her.

Jesus had just crossed over the sea and there was a large crowd waiting to hear Him and to be healed. He was becoming very popular, sometimes for good causes, and some to see if they could find something to ridicule.

Jairus, one of the rulers in the synagogue, was in the crowd that day. Jairus had heard about Christ and believed He could heal his daughter. He was kneeling at the feet of Jesus and waiting to speak with Jesus about his daughter who was ill. As he was waiting, his men came to him and told him to forget it, his daughter had died. Jesus overheard them speaking to Jairus and told him “Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole.” Luke 8:50. But Jairus had faith that Christ could do what he had said. We need to remember that Jairus had only seen his daughter ill, he had not actually seen that she had died, only the people came to tell him that. Jesus told Jairus He would go with him to his home. Because Jesus realized that many of the people there were not believers, or for whatever reason, He only allowed the parents of the child to go into the home along with Peter, James and John. The people were ready to mock Christ who said “Weep not; she is not dead, but sleepeth.” Luke 8:52. Then He spoke to the child and told her to arise. She did and then we are told that Christ told them to give her something to eat. The next verse has always caused some problems to people. After she has walked and been fed, Christ tells them before He leaves not to tell anyone. Why? We aren't told, so there has been much speculation. Perhaps He feared even larger crowds. Perhaps He wanted people to believe without miracles.

We do know that after this time, Jesus went into His own country and began to preach in the synagogue. The people wanted to know how this young man, the son of a carpenter, could do such wonderful things. He marveled at their unbelief, but He continued to preach. He continues to talk with us today, and we wonder. We don't understand, and I don't think we will on this earth. But, Christ also tells us to have the faith of a mustard seed. That doesn't seem like much faith until we study the power of a mustard seed. The power of any seed if nourished is unbelievable. We are so much like those people in the crowd that doubted.

Through this story, we not only see the faith of Jairus, but we realize that its application to us today tells us that faith is the only remedy against grief and fear at such a time. We know that we cannot expect to have people restored from the dead, but we can find hope and comfort through our trials when we accept the faith offered to us by Christ.

Prayer: Dear Master, thank You for Your words of wisdom and Your loving grace for us. Thank You for the witness that Christ gave us on this earth before He died for our sins. Help our unbelief that someday, by Thy grace and love, we will see You face to face and dwell with You forever. Amen.

1. Why do you think Jesus didn't want people to know He had healed the little girl?
2. Do we have enough faith to feel we could be healed by the touch of a garment? How much faith does it take to make us really believe?
3. Think about the power of a seed. – the mighty oaks that grow from a single seed. How are they nourished? What kind of nourishment do we demand for our faith?
4. Do we have a responsibility in this nourishment? For ourselves? For others?
5. How can faith help us to know what to do in any given situation?

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