

BE NOT AFRAID ONLY BELIEVE

MARK 5:21-43

Text: Mark 5:36

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³⁶ As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe.

Introduction:

In 1871, tragedy struck Chicago as fire ravaged the city. When it was finally extinguished, the fire had taken over 300 lives and had left some 100,000 homeless.

A man by the name of Horatio Gates Spafford was one of those who tried to help the people of the city get back on their feet.

Spafford, a Chicago lawyer, who had invested heavily into the downtown area, lost everything as a result of that fire.

More tragically, Spafford had also suffered the loss his only son just a year earlier. Still, for two years Spafford assisted the homeless, impoverished, grief-stricken and others ruined by the fire.

After about two years of such work, Spafford and his family decided to take a vacation. They were to go to

England to join Moody and Ira Sankey on one of their evangelistic crusades, and then travel in Europe.

Horatio Spafford was delayed by some business, but sent his family on ahead. He would catch up to them on the other side of the Atlantic.

The ship made it off but in route collided and sank within 20 minutes.

Spafford's wife Anna survived by clinging onto a piece of floating wreckage their four daughters Maggie, Tanetta, Annie, and Bessie died.

Spafford receives a horrible telegram from his wife with only two words "Saved Alone."

Spafford boarded the next available ship to be near his grieving wife. When the ship passed near the spot where his daughters died, Spafford penned these words:

When peace, like a river attendeth my way,

When sorrows like sea billows roll.

What ever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,

It is well, it is well, with my soul.

Tho Satan should buffet, tho trials should come,

*Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,*

And hath shed His own blood for my soul!

My sin, O the bliss of this glorious thought,

My sin, not in part, but the whole,

Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more:

Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord, O my soul!

*And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be
sight,*

The clouds be rolled back as a scroll.

*The trump shall resound And the Lord shall
descend,*

"Even so", it is well with my soul.

In this passage, we are confronted with a father who is experiencing tragedy. That day, death showed up at the house of Jairus and it had come for his 12 year old daughter.

Note:

1. A PITIFUL DIALOG (vs. 21-23)

Mark 5:21-23

²¹ And when Jesus was passed over again by ship unto the other side, much people gathered unto him: and he was nigh unto the sea. ²² And, behold, there cometh one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name; and when he saw him, he fell at his feet, ²³ 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.

A. The Accomplishments of Jaris (vs. 22)

We are told that this man is a “ruler of the synagogue”. That is, he is a man of prominence, position, prestige, privilege, prosperity and power in the community.

B. The Attitude of Jaris (vs. 22)

Somewhere, Jairus had heard about Jesus. The Bible says that he “fell at His feet”, v. 22.

C. The Acknowledgment of Jaris (vs. 23)

When this man comes to Jesus, falls down before Him and makes his petition to the Lord, he is saying to Jesus, “I cannot do this thing, but I believe you can!”

2. A PAINFUL DELAY (VS. 24-35)

A. The Heart of the Saviour (vs. 24)

Mark 5:22-24

²² And, behold, there cometh one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name; and when he saw him, he fell at his feet, ²³ 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. ²⁴ And *Jesus* went with him; and much people followed him, and thronged him.

When Jairus shares his story with Jesus, he receives a sympathetic ear. Jesus is interested in his need and goes with Jairus to his house.

B. The Halting of a Sick One (vs. 25-34)

Mark 5:25-34

²⁵ And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years, ²⁶ And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse, ²⁷ When she had heard of *Jesus*, came in the press behind, and touched his garment. ²⁸ For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole. ²⁹ And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in *her* body that she was healed of that plague. ³⁰ And *Jesus*, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes? ³¹ And his disciples said unto him, Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me? ³² And he looked round about to see her that had done this thing. ³³ But the woman fearing and

trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth.³⁴ And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.

C. The Heralding of the Servant (vs. 35)

Mark 5:35

³⁵ While he yet spake, there came from the ruler of the synagogue's *house certain* which said, Thy daughter is dead: why troublest thou the Master any further?

During the time of delay, a servant of Jairus comes to the tragic word: "Your daughter is dead!" Can you imagine how Jairus must have felt at that moment?

3. A POWERFUL DELIVERANCE (VS. 36-43)

This difficult situation has now turned into a tragic situation.

The little girl is no longer sick, now she is dead! Even at this tragic moment, it is interesting to see how faith reacts. Jairus has placed his faith in Jesus, and even in the face of death, his faith does not waiver!

A. The Exclamation (vs. 36)

Mark 5:36

³⁶ As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe.

Jesus says to Jairus, "Be not afraid, only believe!"

- Don't believe what you hear (vs. 35)
- Don't believe what you think you know (vs. 38-39)
- Don't believe what you see (vs. 40)

B. The Exclusions (vs. 37-40)

Mark 5:37-40

³⁷ And he suffered no man to follow him, save Peter, and James, and John the brother of James. ³⁸ And he cometh to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and seeth the tumult, and them that wept and wailed greatly. ³⁹ And when he was come in, he saith unto them, Why make ye this ado, and weep? the damsel is not dead, but sleepeth. ⁴⁰ And they laughed him to scorn. But when he had put them all out, he taketh the father and the mother of the damsel, and them that were with him, and entereth in where the damsel was lying.

Those who lacked faith in Him were excluded from seeing Him move and work in power.

C. The Exhibition (vs. 40-43)

Mark 5:40-43

⁴⁰ And they laughed him to scorn. But when he had put them all out, he taketh the father and the mother of the damsel, and them that were with him, and entereth in where the damsel was lying. ⁴¹ And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise. ⁴² And straightway the damsel arose, and walked; for she was *of the age* of twelve years. And they were astonished with a great

astonishment. ⁴³ And he charged them straitly that no man should know it; and commanded that something should be given her to eat.

When Jesus entered the room where that dead girl was lying, He took her by the hand and told her to rise and she did!

Close:

A Methodist preacher by the name of Luther Bridges, was born in 1884, he married Sarah Veatch and three lovely sons were born of their union. Pastor Bridges accepted an invitation to minister at a conference in Kentucky in the year 1910, so he left his family in the care of his father-in-law and made the trip to Kentucky. There, two wonderful weeks of ministry resulted. The last service closed with great joy and he was excited to be called to the telephone. He couldn't wait to tell his wife about all the blessings.

But it wasn't her voice on that long distance line. He listened in silence to the news that a fire had burned down the house of his father-in-law and his wife and all three of his sons had died in the blaze. That distraught father leaned heavily on His Savior and expressed his faith in God during a tearful moment by penning these words:

*There's within my heart a melody
Jesus whispers sweet and low,*

*Fear not, I am with thee, peace, be still,
In all of life's ebb and flow.*

*All my life was wrecked by sin and strife,
Discord filled my heart with pain,
Jesus swept across the broken strings,
Stirred the slumbering chords again.*

*Feasting on the riches of His grace,
Resting 'neath His sheltering wing,
Always looking on His smiling face,
That is why I shout and sing.*

*Though sometimes He leads through waters
deep,
Trials fall across the way,
Though sometimes the path seems rough and
steep,
See His footprints all the way.*

*Soon He's coming back to welcome me,
Far beyond the starry sky;
I shall wing my flight to worlds unknown,
I shall reign with Him on high.*

Chorus:

*Jesus, Jesus, Jesus,
Sweetest Name I know,
Fills my every longing,*

Keeps me singing as I go.

Jesus is not a magic genie! But, He is a Sovereign Lord! He can take an impossible situation and turn it into a miracle of His power and glory. Is there a need? Get it to Him!