

BE NOT AFRAID ONLY BELIEVE

MARK 5:21-43

Text: Mark 5:36

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.

Introduction:

The Lord has been going from hopeless situation to another. The Lord has demonstrated His power over a stormy sea, a demon possessed man and a very sick woman. The Lord proved that He was more than adequate for any situation He faced.

As we watch our Lord conquer one hopeless situation after another, it should give us hope when our own desperate times come. I want to take the Lord's words in verse 36 as my title "Be Not Afraid, Only Believe."

I would like for us to see a father's faith in action. We will see how his faith is matured by the struggle he endured. What we learn here can help us to overcome fear with faith during the hard times of life.

Note the steps or phases this father's faith passes through as this story develops.

1. THE CONCEPTION OF HIS FAITH (VS. 21-24)

Jesus has just returned from a night at sea. He and His disciples went to the other side of the lake. While He was there, Jesus delivered a poor man from the grip of Satan, by casting out the demons that possessed him.

Now, the Lord has returned to Capernaum and is immediately met by a crowd of people. Some have gathered to hear His words. Some have come in the hopes of experiencing a miracle. All are there to see Jesus.

A man named Jairus rushes into the crowd surrounding Jesus. It is his story that serves as the focus of these verses. He is a man whose little faith is about to grow very large.

A. The Direction of His Faith (vs. 22-23a)

Mark 5:22-23

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.

This man is “a ruler of the synagogue”. This means that he was one of the officials who oversaw the business of the synagogue. He was not a priest, but he would have

had a part in the services of the synagogue. He was responsible for making sure that everything was in order and ready at the synagogue. He would have been an important man in his community. Jairus possessed power, privilege, prestige, position, and prominence. He would have been a wealthy man, with a fine home and servants. He was a religious man, who faithfully practiced the Jewish faith.

At this moment in his life, none of the things that usually seemed important to Jairus mattered in the least! Sickness and death had visited the home of Jairus and none of the things that mattered in his life could drive them away! His power, his money, his position in the community, even his religion, were all powerless in the face those two enemies. His “little daughter” was dying and he needed help! Jairus needed help that none of his resources could provide.

Jairus doesn't understand everything there is to know about Jesus. But, he has come to believe that this man can heal.

Tragedy doesn't care who you are! Tragedy doesn't care that you go to church and pay your tithes. Sickness and death could care less about your achievements and assets.

B. The Depth of His Faith (vs. 23b-24)

Mark 5:23-24

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.

Regardless of whether he heard about or saw it with his own eyes, Jairus believes that Jesus can do this for his own daughter. He believes the Lord's touch will bring healing to his child. Thus, this powerful man humbles himself at the feet of Jesus and cries out for the help he needs.

This is the kind of faith the Lord is looking for in your life and mine. He wants us to come to the end of our own abilities. He wants us to come to the place where we know that we can't, but where we believe that He can!

God has a way of growing our faith as we walk with Him through the days of our lives.

2. THE CONFUSION OF HIS FAITH (VS. 24-35)

Someone has said, “A faith that can’t be tested is a faith that can’t be trusted.” Here, we see the fledgling faith of Jairus put to the test. A hopeless situation grew worse with each passing moment and a faith that was weak was brought to the breaking point.

A. Confused by Hindering Situations (vs. 24-34)

Mark 5:24-35

²⁴ And *Jesus* went with him; and much people followed him, and thronged him. 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.

Jesus leaves to go with Jairus to heal his daughter. As He goes, He is thronged by the crowd and a very sick woman touches His garments and is healed. Jesus stops to confront and comfort this woman, and as He does, precious minutes pass by.

I would imagine that Jairus is confused and upset by this delay. After all, his daughter is in the dying process! She doesn't have much time and Jesus is wasting His time on this woman.

It is very possible that Jairus knew this woman and her condition. If so, he knows that she had been sick for twelve years. He may be thinking that waiting another hour for her healing wouldn't have killed her. He may be thinking that this interruption will kill his daughter.

We don't know what was going on the mind of Jairus during this interruption. He was probably waiting impatiently, his stomach in knots. If you have ever had a very sick child, then you know the anxiety that must have gripped his heart.

On the surface, the Lord's delay seems a little insensitive. He knows the seriousness of the situation. He knows the broken heart of this father. He knows the urgency of the need. But, Jesus pauses to take care of the need at hand.

What seems to be hard and harsh on the surface has some important lessons to teach us.

- Deity doesn't run on our schedule. God is not bound by the constraints of time and space. It may surprise you, but God does not possess a clock or a calendar!
- The delays of life are designed to increase our faith.

Illustration

You take a Joseph and throw him in a pit, then into slavery, then in to prison; and out of that delay God will give you the Prime Minister of Egypt and a man of God!

- When God doesn't move as quickly as you might like, trust Him anyway.

B. Confused By Hopeless Situations (vs. 35-36)

Mark 5:35-36

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

As Jesus is finally finishing up with this woman, some people come from that home of Jairus with devastating news. His daughter is dead!

Surely this news rocked Jairus to his foundations! Surely this news attacked his faith and brought Jairus to the very edge of despair! Surely he must have thought about the delay. I wonder if he became a little bitter at the Lord.

We must remember that God is seldom early, but He is never late!

God has a plan for your situation! Even when you can't see what the Lord is doing, learn to trust Him anyway and your faith will sustain you! Even when you can't see what He is doing, God is working to accomplish His plan and purposes in your life and mine.

3. THE CONFIRMATION OF HIS FAITH (VS. 36-43)

The faith of Jairus was weak, the faith of Jairus waivered, but, in the end, the faith of Jairus won out.

His faith triumphed because his faith was rooted in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Notice

A. His Faith was Confirmed by the Saviour's Words (vs. 36-39)

Mark 5:36-39

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

Jesus overhears the words from those who have brought the news of the girl's death. Jesus also knows the fear that rests within the heart of Jairus. Jesus says, "Be not afraid, only believe." Jesus is saying, "Jairus, don't believe what you hear, v. 35. Don't believe what you know, v. 38-39. Don't believe what you see, v. 40. Most of all, don't believe what you think! Trust Me!" He is saying, "Jairus, you believed Me when you came to me a few moments ago; keep believing in me now!"

So Jesus and Jairus continued on to Jairus' house. When they arrived, they find that the mourners are already there.

B. Confirmed by the Saviour's Works (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.

Jesus sends the mourners and the spectators away. He takes Jairus, the girl's mother and enters the room where the girl's body lies. He took her by the hand and said "Talitha Cumi". This phrase can literally be translated "Arise little lamb".

Jesus is moved with compassion by the grief in this home and He calls the little girl's spirit back into her body.

It amazes me when I read about Jesus walking on water, feeding a multitude with a small amount of food, calming a storm, healing a sickness, etc. But, nothing showcases His divine power like Him raising someone from the dead.

If Jesus can do this, there is nothing impossible with Him! That lost spouse or family member can be saved!

That impossible situation in your life can be handled!
That incredible need that you think is so great, it can be met!

Close:

His command to Jairus is fitting for us today.

When sickness comes – Believe Jesus

When death comes – Believe Jesus

When the bottom falls out of life – Believe Jesus

When the answers to your prayers are delayed –
Believe Jesus

When you are looking at a hopeless situation – Believe
Jesus

When I place my problem beside the Lord, it suddenly
grows very small. No matter how great it looks in my
eyes, it is nothing compared to Him.

In October 1982 Badger Stadium at Madison,
Wisconsin was filled with 60,000 fans. The University of
Wisconsin was playing the University of Michigan. The
game was not going well for Wisconsin. In fact, they
were being trounced by Michigan.

As the game progressed something strange began to take place in the stands. Every few minutes cheering and applause could be heard, even though Michigan was running up the score on Wisconsin.

Some 70 miles away, the Milwaukee Brewers were beating the St. Louis Cardinals in the third game of the World Series. Many of the Wisconsin fans were listening to that game on their radios. They were cheering over something else than what was happening in front of their eyes.

The Christian life is just like that! We might be in a tough situation, but we can rejoice in Jesus! Why? We are able to see the victory that is ours through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:57

⁵⁷ But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Things look bleak down here, but what's waiting on us is out of this world.

