

“Do Not Be Afraid, Only Believe”
(Mark 5:21-24, 35-43)

I. Introduction.

A. Orientation.

1. We saw last week a demonstration of who Jesus is through the healing of the woman with the hemorrhage.
 - a. That He is not only the Lord of the world and its history,
 - b. He is not only Lord over the spiritual realm,
 - c. He is Lord over our bodies and souls.
 - d. This would seem to follow since,
 - (i) Our bodies are part of the created physical world.
 - (ii) And our souls are part of the created spiritual realm,
 - (iii) Over which Jesus is Lord of both.
2. Mark is seeking to prove that Jesus is the Christ, the only way of salvation. If you would be saved, you must be like this woman.
 - a. You must see your need – that you are unclean in God’s eyes and in danger of everlasting damnation.
 - b. And you must reach out to Jesus in faith.
 - (i) Not to false Christs, religious leaders, or false prophets.
 - (ii) Not to yourself – there’s nothing you can do to remove your uncleanness.
 - (iii) You must reach out to Jesus alone.

B. Preview.

1. Now this situation with this woman happened while Jesus was on His way with Jairus to help his daughter.
 - a. Jesus had crossed the sea of Galilee again with His disciples after having set the man with the legion free (v. 21).
 - b. When He arrived, He found that a man was looking for Him – Jairus, one of the officers of a local synagogue (v. 22).
 - (i) This man had a desperate need – his daughter was close to death – he was seeking Jesus because he believed He could heal her.
 - (ii) When Jairus saw Him, he fell at his feet, begging Him to come to his house to heal his daughter (v. 23).
 - (iii) Jesus, saw the man’s faith (v. 23) and went with Him (v. 24).
 - c. Then the woman with the hemorrhage came to Him, and after He healed her, while He was still speaking, messengers came from Jairus’ house to tell him there was no longer any need to trouble Jesus – his daughter had died (v. 35).
 - d. Jesus immediately spoke to strengthen the faith of this man, “Do not be afraid *any longer*, only believe” (v. 36).
 - (i) Jairus believed Jesus could heal his daughter.

- (ii) But now he must believe that Jesus was able to raise her from death – that He has power over life and death.
 - (iii) As He did on other occasions, Jesus continued the journey with just His closest circle of friends – Peter, James and John – to be His witnesses (v. 37).
- e. When they arrived, the hired mourners were hard at work weeping and wailing (v. 38).
 - (i) When Jesus tested their faith – by saying the girl is not dead, but asleep – they mocked Him, showing they weren’t worthy to see what He would do next (v. 39-40).
 - (ii) And so He put them out (v. 40).
- f. Jesus then entered the girl’s room, with her parents and His disciples (v. 40).
 - (i) He took the girl by the hand and bid her to get up (v. 41). Immediately, she arose and began to walk (v. 42).
 - (ii) They were astonished – who is this that commands even the dead and they obey?
 - (iii) The parents would have gone out immediately and told everyone what Jesus had done.
 - (iv) But Jesus commanded them not to do so (v. 43) – at least not for the moment – for there was still much He had yet to do.
- 2. Jesus shows us here that He is the Lord of life – He has power over the dead.
 - a. He said on another occasion, “For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes” (John 5:21).
 - b. The Bible tell us that one day Jesus will return to raise all the dead. On that day He will bring everyone to judgment (vv. 28-29). Are you ready?
 - c. Here’s how you can be: if you never have, trust Jesus now to raise your soul to life.
 - (i) His power to raise the dead is not limited to the body – He can also raise the soul.
 - (ii) Not only can He reunite your soul with your body, but He can unite your soul with Himself and reconcile you to God, if you will only believe on Him.
 - (iii) This is your only possible safety on that day.
 - d. Let’s look at how He can do this in a way that parallels what we’ve just seen in Jairus’ daughter. Let’s consider,
 - (i) First, that in conversion, the Lord sovereignly raises you from the dead.
 - (ii) And second, that He does this in a variety of ways.

II. Sermon.

- A. First, let’s consider that in conversion, the Lord sovereignly raises you from the dead.

1. Contrary to what you might have thought, when your mother delivered you, you were still born – at least spiritually speaking (in most cases).
 - a. You were physically alive – you were warm, you moved, you cried.
 - b. But you were spiritually dead – actually you were spiritually dead from the time you were conceived.
 - (i) Paul writes, “And you were dead in your trespasses and sins” (Eph. 2:1).
 - (ii) You couldn’t save yourself; you couldn’t do anything pleasing to God; you didn’t want to because you hated God (the true God).
 - (iii) You couldn’t even receive Jesus – because you hated Him.
 - (iv) Spiritually, you were as dead as Jairus’ daughter. You were also as helpless as she was to do anything about your condition.
 2. If you’re spiritually alive this morning, it’s not because of anything you did; but because God raised you to life – Paul says when you were dead, He made you alive (v. 5).
 - a. God did this; not you.
 - b. He didn’t do it because He owed it to you; He did it purely of His mercy – one that was *possible only because of the cross*.
 - c. When you think of the life you have, make sure you remember to thank Him, because it was His work from first to last.
- B. But how did the Lord bring you to life when you were dead and absolutely helpless? Second, let’s consider that He does this in a variety of ways.
1. Sometimes the Lord saves immediately through His Gospel.
 - a. He always uses the Gospel – it’s the power of God to salvation (Rom. 1:16).
 - (i) That’s why we evangelize.
 - (ii) That’s why we do missions.
 - b. Sometimes He uses it to convert right away.
 - (i) You hear, you’re convicted, the Lord raises you to life, you trust in Jesus and He saves you.
 - (ii) Maybe He did this in some of you.
 - (iii) It’s more likely, it wasn’t quite this quick.
 2. Very often He begins with a work short of salvation – He wakes you up through His Law and His Gospel to begin seeking Him.
 - a. When He does, you’re still spiritually dead, but at least you’re concerned.
 - (i) You’re not concerned about going to heaven – at least not the true heaven, because you really don’t want to go there.
 - (ii) You’re concerned about *not going* to hell.
 - b. And so you begin to read the Bible, to pray, to listen to Gospel preached, hoping that He might give you His grace, raise you to life and save you.
 - (i) You need to do this until you know that He has saved you – until He changes your heart and makes you love His Son – until you actually begin to trust Him from your heart – until your life is transformed and you begin

to obey and walk with Him – even then you mustn't stop trusting and obeying Him until you reach heaven.

- (ii) If you don't seek until you find Him, you'll eventually fall back into a spiritual slumber until you are awakened again, or until you die and stand before the Judge.
- (iii) You don't want this to happen:
 - (a) If you're awake at all, seek the Lord and don't stop seeking Him until He saves you.
 - (b) The Lord must raise you from the dead – He must give life to your soul as He did to Jairus' daughter – or you will perish forever.

3. But there is still a third possibility. What can you do if you're spiritually dead and not awake at all?

- a. The answer is nothing.
 - (i) If you're not concerned, you won't seek Him.
 - (ii) And if you don't seek, you won't find Him.
- b. But there is something others can do.
 - (i) While Jairus' daughter was dead, she couldn't do anything to help herself or raise herself to life.
 - (ii) But there was something her father could do – he could seek Jesus to come and raise her.
- c. In the same way, you can seek the Lord for those who aren't able to seek Him for themselves.
 - (i) You can pray for them, bring the Gospel to them, invite them to hear the preaching of the Gospel – in the hope that they will either be *awakened or converted*.
 - (ii) Parents, what should you do for your children that are yet dead in their sins? You must seek the Lord for their salvation.
 - (iii) What can you do for your family members, friends, neighbors? Seek the Lord that He might show them mercy and raise them to life.
 - (iv) If they won't come to Jesus, then pray that Jesus would come to them.
 - (v) Seek the Lord that He might find them; and believe that He is able.
 - (a) It's somehow easier to believe that the Lord can heal those who are only spiritually sick.
 - (b) You must believe that He is able also to raise the dead.
- d. If you do this earnestly and faithfully, there is a good possibility that they will be saved.
 - (i) The Lord is gracious and merciful, and He is often willing to listen and answer our prayers, because this is what He has planned.
 - (ii) Monica, the mother of Augustine, prayed for her son's salvation with many tears over many years.
 - (a) A certain bishop once consoled her by saying a child of such tears could never perish.

- (b) She had so sought the Lord for the salvation of her son that the bishop was sure she would be heard – and she was.
- (iii) Your prayers and tears don't force God to save anyone, but He often ordains such prayers and tears when He determines to save.
- (iv) All of us know many people who are lost and unconcerned. May the Lord give us the grace to seek and keep on seeking the Lord for them until He is gracious and saves. Amen.

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