

## Don't Bury It Yet: Finding Hope When All Seems Lost

Pastor Darrio Melton

In life's darkest moments, when our dreams seem shattered and our hopes crushed, it's easy to give up. We might be tempted to bury our aspirations, to accept defeat, and to walk away from what once burned brightly within us. But there's a powerful message we need to hear: Don't bury it yet.

This profound truth is beautifully illustrated in the story of Jairus, a man of high standing in his community who found himself in desperate need. His young daughter, only twelve years old, lay at the point of death. In his anguish, Jairus did something remarkable – he sought out Jesus, pushing through crowds and setting aside his prestigious position to fall at the feet of the one he believed could save his child.

Jairus's actions teach us a vital lesson: when faced with seemingly insurmountable challenges, we must be willing to humble ourselves and seek help. Sometimes, our titles, our status, or our pride can prevent us from reaching out. But Jairus shows us that true strength lies in recognizing our need and acting on it, even if it means elbowing our way through a crowd or looking undignified in the process.

As Jairus led Jesus towards his home, an unexpected interruption occurred. A woman who had suffered for twelve long years reached out and touched Jesus's garment, receiving instant healing. This pause in the journey might have frustrated Jairus, but it serves as a reminder that God's timing is not always our timing. Sometimes, when we're rushing towards our own miracle, God asks us to wait while He works in someone else's life. This teaches us patience and compassion, even in our own moments of crisis.

Just when hope seemed within reach, devastating news arrived: Jairus's daughter had died. The messengers urged him not to bother the Teacher any further. How often do we face similar moments? When circumstances seem to have spiraled beyond the point of no return, voices around us (and sometimes within us) tell us to give up, to stop believing, to bury our hopes once and for all.

But Jesus's response cuts through the despair: "Don't be afraid; just believe." These words ring out across the centuries, speaking to every heart that has ever teetered on the edge of giving up. Fear and faith cannot coexist. When we choose to believe, even in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds, we open the door for God to work in ways we never imagined possible.

Upon reaching Jairus's house, Jesus encountered a scene of mourning and despair. Professional mourners had already arrived, their wails filling the air with a sense of finality. Yet Jesus saw beyond the apparent reality. "The child is not dead but asleep," he declared. His words were met with scorn and laughter – a poignant reminder that sometimes our greatest opposition comes from those who cannot see beyond their limited perspective.

In a powerful move, Jesus cleared the room of doubters and naysayers. He allowed only Peter, James, John, and the child's parents to remain. This teaches us the importance of surrounding ourselves with faith-filled individuals when we're believing for a miracle. Not everyone deserves a front-row seat to your breakthrough moment.

Taking the girl by the hand, Jesus spoke words of life: "Talitha koum!" (which means "Little girl, I say to you, get up!"). In that instant, death's grip was broken, and the girl rose, walking around to the astonishment of all present.

This miraculous event carries a message for all of us: No matter how dire your circumstances may seem, no matter how long you've been struggling, no matter how many people have given up on you – don't bury your hopes yet. Your dreams, your relationships, your purpose – they might be sleeping, but they're not dead. The same power that raised that young girl to life is available to breathe new life into your situation today.

Interestingly, after this astounding miracle, Jesus instructed the family not to tell anyone what had happened. This puzzling command carries a profound truth: Sometimes, the greatest testimony is not in what we say, but in how we live. The girl's restored life would speak volumes without a single word being uttered. In the same way, when God works a miracle in our lives, we don't always need to shout it from the rooftops. Simply living out the reality of our transformation can be the most powerful witness to those around us.

As we reflect on this story, let's consider:

1. What areas of our lives have we been tempted to "bury" prematurely?
2. Are we willing to humble ourselves and seek help when we need it most?
3. How can we cultivate a faith that perseveres even when circumstances seem hopeless?
4. Who are the faith-filled individuals we need to surround ourselves with during challenging times?
5. In what ways can our lives silently testify to the miracles God has worked in us?

Remember, as long as there's a pulse – in your dreams, your relationships, your purpose – there's still hope. Don't let the voices of doubt, whether external or internal, convince you to bury what God intends to resurrect. Keep believing, keep pressing forward, and watch as God turns your moments of despair into testimonies of His power and love.

In every challenge you face, hear these words echoing in your spirit: "Don't be afraid; just believe." Your miracle might be just around the corner. Don't bury it yet – your time of resurrection is coming.