

When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on earth? (Luke 18:8)

Hebrews 11:1-3 “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.”

Mark 5:21-24 and 35-43 “And when Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered about him, and he was beside the sea. Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, and seeing him, he fell at his feet and implored him earnestly, saying, “My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live.” And he went with him.

[Verse 35] While he was still speaking, there came from the ruler's house some who said, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?” But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, “Do not fear, only believe.” And he allowed no one to follow him except Peter and James and John the brother of James. They came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and Jesus saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. And when he had entered, he said to them, “Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at him. But he put them all outside and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him and went in where the child was. Taking her by the hand he said to her, “Talitha cumi,” which means, “Little girl, I say to you, arise.” And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement. And he strictly charged them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.”

Role and Status

- Esteemed position, a religious elite.
- Supervising order, worship and scripture teaching.
- He risked status for an urgent need.

Desperation for his Daughter

- His desperation as a father transcends his position.
- He was willing to lay it all on the line for divine intervention.

Faith in Jesus

- While most are suspicious of Him being the messiah, Jairus exercises faith.



Jesus' Assurance

- Don't be afraid, just believe.
- Jesus assures Jairus before fear takes over.

Reaction of the Mourners

- When Jesus announces the miracle they react with skepticism.

Talitha Koum — Little girl arise.

LESSON 1: OUR FAITH RESIDES IN CHRIST, NOT OUR PLANS

- Both Jairus and the woman had a plan that Jesus disrupted.
- Faith does not reside in a thing, but in relationship with the person of Jesus Christ.

LESSON 2: TRUST JESUS TO DEFINE REALITY & TRUTH, NOT THE CROWD

- The disciples were confounded with Jesus' question about who touched Him.
- The woman knew and responded. The crowd viewed the woman as unhealable and unclean, beyond help (Mark 5:26), She was not beyond His capacity or concern.
- The men who arrived from Jairus's home believed that death meant the end of Jesus' ability to heal Jairus's daughter. "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?" (Mark 5:35).
- The professional mourners laughed at Jesus when He said "The child is not dead but sleeping" (Mark 5:39). When all hope seems lost – when life goes from bad to dead – we need to see things not like the crowd, but like Jesus.
- When the troubles around us seem insurmountable, the waves are crashing and we have tried everything we can try, "Do not be afraid, only believe" (Mark 5:36).

LESSON 3: OUR TIME AND GOD'S TIME MAY BE DIFFERENT

- Twelve years must have felt like forever. According to the Law, this woman's condition would have made her ritually unclean.
- For Jairus and his daughter, twelve years was too short. God's timing, purpose, and plans are often different from ours, but His purpose is always for His glory (John 11:4).
- God is working for us and in us for His good pleasure (Philippians 2:13), often using time and process to help us get to the end of ourselves and our own assumption of self-sufficiency, so we can learn dependency and sufficiency in Him alone (2 Corinthians 3:5; 2 Corinthians 12:9).
- Do not fear, but keep believing.



The Bible provides the story of the work of God as the Word of God throughout time, speaking in and to the lives of people just like you and me. From the fear and urgency of sickness and death that turn a respected community leader into an imploring father on his knees to the hopelessness and helplessness of a woman seeking relief from every source without results, we can relate. These are our experiences - suffering, struggle, fear, and loss. We attempt our plans, but see our capacity as insufficient or too late, feeling like life is too long or too short and God is delayed or absent in our need. But the lesson of this young girl and older woman is just the opposite. God loves us and seeks us out, crossing a sea in terrifying storms to show His mercy and compassion in our sinfulness (**Mark 5:19**). "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding (or plans or perceptions). In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths" (**Proverbs 3:5-6**). Our faith resides in the person of Jesus Christ, who loves us and gave Himself for us (**Ephesians 5:2**).

While we may feel overwhelmed and alone, He is here and His timing and purpose are perfect (**Psalms 18:30**). He is working all things together for His good (**Romans 8:28**) and for His glory (**1 Corinthians 10:31**), conforming us to the image of Christ (**Romans 8:29-30**), making all things new (**Revelation 21:5**), because He loves us (**Romans 5:8; Romans 8:37-39; Ephesians 2:4-10**).

