

## Stop Fearing. Keep on Believing

Mark 5:21-24, 35-43 (New American Standard Bible)

<sup>21</sup> When Jesus had crossed over again in the boat to the other side, a large crowd gathered around Him; and so He stayed by the seashore. <sup>22</sup> One of the synagogue officials named Jairus *\*came up, and on seeing Him, \*fell at His feet* <sup>23</sup> and *\*implored Him earnestly, saying, “My little daughter is at the point of death; please come and lay Your hands on her, so that she will get well and live.”* <sup>24</sup> And He went off with him; and a large crowd was following Him and pressing in on Him (v. 25-v. 34 summary by kc: on His way to Jairus’s house, Jesus was touched by a woman with hemorrhage for 12 years and she was instantly healed, and He was talking with her)... <sup>35</sup> While He was still speaking, they *\*came from the house of the synagogue official, saying, “Your daughter has died; why trouble the Teacher anymore?”* <sup>36</sup> But Jesus, overhearing what was being spoken, *\*said to the synagogue official, “Do not be afraid any longer, only believe.”* <sup>37</sup> And He allowed no one to accompany Him, except Peter and James and John the brother of James. <sup>38</sup> They *\*came to the house of the synagogue official; and He \*saw a commotion, and people loudly weeping and wailing.* <sup>39</sup> And entering in, He *\*said to them, “Why make a commotion and weep? The child has not died, but is asleep.”* <sup>40</sup> They **began laughing at Him.** But putting them all out, He *\*took along the child’s father and mother and His own companions, and \*entered the room where the child was.* <sup>41</sup> Taking the child by the hand, He *\*said to her, “Talitha kum!” (which translated means, “Little girl, I say to you, get up!”).* <sup>42</sup> **Immediately** the girl got up and began to walk, for she was twelve years old. And **immediately** they were completely astounded. <sup>43</sup> And He gave them strict orders that no one should know about this, and He said that something should be given her to eat.

## Introduction

This morning, I am taking you back to the story of Jairus and his daughter. His daughter was dying at home. He earnestly asked Jesus to come and pray for her healing. Jesus said He would. So, they were on their way to Jairus’s house. However, Jesus was interrupted by a woman with a hemorrhage problem. She was instantly healed according to her faith. Praise God for her faith and healing. It was good for her. Yet, from Jairus’s point of view, they were delayed. I almost hear Jairus saying. “Come on Lord, we gotta go!” So, let’s follow Jesus to Jairus’s house. By the way, if you put yourself in Jairus’s shoes, it will help you to understand the Scripture more.

## Content

I am going to lead you verse by verse beginning with verse 35.

<sup>35</sup> While He was still speaking, they *\*came from the house of the synagogue official, saying, “Your daughter has died; why trouble the Teacher anymore?”*

At that very moment, I wonder what thought flashed through in Jairus's mind and heart. *Oh, I wish this lady never interrupted the Lord.*

Even during the conversation between Jesus and the lady, no matter how short it was, Jairus might have thought to himself, "Come on Lord, let's go!" Then, this happened. His daughter just died. What he was afraid of became a reality! *It's all your fault, Lady. It's all your fault.*

Let me tell you, folks. If I were the woman who just got cured, I would not be able to enjoy the moment of gratitude. My celebration of healing wouldn't be shared with others much. Rather, I would feel terribly sorry that the delay might have caused the death of a young girl. *I am terribly sorry. Verse 36.*

<sup>36</sup> *But Jesus, overhearing what was being spoken, \*said to the synagogue official, "Do not be afraid any longer, only believe."*

By the way, if I am on my way to pray for the sick, and the family calls me saying that the person just died, so, pastor, don't trouble yourself coming, I would say, *oh, I am so sorry, but thanks for letting me know.* And, I would stop going.

But, not Jesus. He was different. Of course, He was equal to God. Overhearing what was said to Jairus, He said, "Do not be afraid any longer, only believe." Here's my literal translation from Greek. *Stop being afraid. Keep on believing.* In other words, by these two verbs, to stop and to believe, Jesus meant ongoing repeated actions. Not a one-time action. Greek grammar makes such a distinction which was lost in translation. Please keep that in mind. We will come back to that later.

Also, why did Jesus mention the two things together? Fear and faith. Was it an accident? Was it casually said by the Lord? No. Jesus points out to us that these two, faith and fear (or fear and faith) are closely related to each other. Inversely. We will come back to this one later, too. Let's move onto the next verse. Verse 37.

<sup>37</sup> *And He allowed no one to accompany Him, except Peter and James and John the brother of James.*

Jesus had twelve disciples. Out of the twelve, He chose three, Peter, James, and John and asked the other nine to stay right there. So, Jairus continually leading the way, Jesus and the three disciples, and the people from Jairus's house rushed to the house. Verse 38.

<sup>38</sup> *They \*came to the house of the synagogue official; and He \*saw a commotion, and people loudly weeping and wailing.*

Finally, they arrived at the house. They were still outside. Lo and behold, there was a commotion, and people were loudly weeping and wailing. In the New Testament, the same Greek word for ‘commotion’ was used in the context of riot, clamor, turmoil, and mob. It involves a crowd. The house was surrounded by the crowd and a lot of people loudly were weeping and wailing. Verse 39.

*<sup>39</sup> And entering in, He \*said to them, “Why make a commotion and weep? **The child has not died, but is asleep.**”*

Jesus’ words imply that the child would wake up again, like everybody wakes up from a nap. Let’s see how the crowd responded to His words in verse 40.

*<sup>40</sup> They **began laughing at Him.** But putting them all out, He \*took along the child’s father and mother and His own companions, and \*entered the room where the child was.*

They began laughing at Him. Pay attention to the subject of laughing at Jesus: **they.** The crowd. Multiple people. They laughed at Jesus’ words. This is not the first time when people didn’t believe Jesus’ words. But, laughing at Him? That was something new. They all disagreed with what Jesus had said. *The girl was dead, not alive.*

No breath left. Dead. No longer alive. Dead. *Which part do you not get, Jesus? they were openly jeering at Him with laughter. You call her not dead but asleep? Come on, Jesus. Get a grip on reality.* Here, I see a clash between scientific evidence and divine declaration. Big time. By the way, you just witnessed the exchange of opinions between the crowd and Jesus. Which side would you stand with? The crowd or Jesus? The scientific evidence or divine declaration?

Jesus told the crowd to get out. And He entered the room where the girl was laid, only allowing the parents and His three disciples. Let’s move onto the next verse. Verse 41.

*<sup>41</sup> Taking the child by the hand, He \*said to her, “Talitha kum!” (which translated means, “Little girl, I say to you, get up!”).*

“Talitha kum!” means, *Little Girl, Rise!* Verse 42.

*<sup>42</sup> **Immediately** the girl got up and began to walk, for she was twelve years old. And **immediately** they were completely astounded.*

Of course, the parents were ecstatic! Incredible! Praise the Lord. I can see in my imagination that the parents especially the father profusely thanking Jesus. *Thank you, Lord. Thank you, Jesus.* Verse 43.

*<sup>43</sup> And He gave them strict orders that no one should know about this, and He said that something should be given her to eat.*

Here I see Jesus very practical and thoughtful. I am sure the girl had not eaten for the duration of her illness. It could've been days. So, He commanded the parents to give her something to eat. Well, that's where the story ends.

Now, let's roll back to the moment when Jairus was told by his folk that his daughter just died and therefore, bother the teacher no more. Jesus said, 'Stop fearing, Jairus. Only keep on believing.'

**Faith and Fear in Inverse Relation.** Fear and faith are in an inverse relation. That means, the more you fear, the less you have faith. The more you believe in God, the less fear you will suffer from. If you have been suffering from fear, any type of fear, let me tell you the cure for the fear. It is faith in God. It is trust in Jesus. Faith moves the mountain. Fear makes it insurmountable.

Fear troubles your heart. Faith calms your heart. Fear raises doubt in your heart. Faith removes it from your heart. Faith makes you walk on the waters and fear makes you sink. In Matthew 14:30, we see Peter walking on the waters. As soon as he got afraid of the wind and the waves around him, he began to sink. As Jesus pulled him out of the waters, He asked, "Why did you doubt?" Fear raises doubt in your heart.

Another instance in Luke 8:25. After calming the storm in the lake, Jesus said to His scared disciples, "Where is your faith?" If you ever find yourself fearful of anything or anybody, ask yourself like Jesus did, "Where is my faith?"

**The Only Good Fear Is the Fear of the Lord.** 'Fear' is referenced close to 400 times in the Bible. Let me tell you this: the only good and healthy fear we must have in us is the fear of the Lord. The holy reverence of the Lord God. The utmost respect to the name of the Lord.

Here are the things that the Bible talks about the fear of the Lord. *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge* (Proverbs 1:7). The fear of the LORD helps us to turn away from evil (Proverbs 3:7). *The fear of the Lord prolongs our life* (Proverbs 10:27). The fear of the LORD also gives us strong confidence (Proverbs 14:26). The fear of the LORD leads to life (Proverbs 19:23).

All the rest, and any other fear than the fear of the Lord, will keep us in snares and lead us into destruction. *The fear of man brings a snare* (Proverbs 29:25). In fact, the Lord commands us never to have fear of either man or things, unexpected future, or anxieties. Jesus commands us not to *fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell* (Matthew 10:28). *Do not fear nothing or nobody but the LORD* (Matthew 10:31). Have the fear of the Lord.

**It's a Choice.** Choose faith over fear. You can either choose faith and train your heart not to fear or choose fear and train your heart to **doubt** and fear more.

When you choose fear, your heart will be troubled. When you choose faith, your heart will be in peace. Let's listen to Jesus: *Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful* (John 14:27). He commands us not to let our heart be fearful. We can overcome fear. How do I know? Because, Jesus would never command us to do something we cannot do. We can control our fears with God's help. By faith. Are you listening? Choose faith and let your heart not be fearful. Unfortunately, many of us let the fear have control over our heart entirely. No wonder we suffer from anxiety and panic. No wonder our hearts are troubled. It's time to stop making unhealthy choices. Choose faith over fear.

## **Conclusion**

So, folks, here's a two-fold action point.

**Stop fearing. Stop being afraid.** Next time, you see fear arising in your heart, put a stop to it. After that, you may see the fear return. Again, and again. Well, put a stop to it again and again. Each time you see the fear, bring up the stop sign to it. That is your strategy.

Practice it. Keep practicing it. Until you get it. Remember when Jesus said, stop fearing, He didn't mean just a one-time action. He means a repeated action of stopping against the relentless attack of fears in your heart. Until your fear gets the message that you mean it, keep on putting a stop to it.

**Keep on believing.** Same idea. You believed once and did all the problems disappear? No, not really. Please don't expect that your one-time action of believing in Jesus will solve the problem of fear and anxiety once and for all. Expect that the fear and anxiety will assail you over and over again. Declare yourself over and over again that *I believe in Jesus. I trust in Him.* Keep on doing it. Repeatedly. Until you have peace in your heart. That's what it means to keep on believing. Let not your heart be fearful. Jesus commands.

Put a stop to fears. Repeatedly. Keep on believing in Jesus and His power. And, you will have peace. Amen.