MIRACLES OF JESUS

THE HEALING OF JAIRUS' DAUGHTER, MARK 5:22-24, 35-43

A. Context of Mark 5
   1. He healed a demon possessed man on the eastern shore (1-20)
   2. He returned to the northwestern side of the Sea of Galilee (21), 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.

B. There is a desperate appeal (22-24)
   1. A Jewish synagogue ruler implored Jesus to heal his critically ill daughter (22-23), ***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."***

      a. Jairus was a synagogue official.
         1) Synagogue rulers were lay leaders who were responsible for the worship services and the synagogue's physical facilities.
         2) He must have been well respected in his community since his position in the synagogue made him a leader of the community.

      b. He fell at Jesus' feet.
         1) It was an act of respect or at least desperation.
         2) He had a need which was greater than concern for his position as a leader in the Jewish community.
         3) Larry Richards, *No matter how important we may be, there are times when our need is so desperate that there is no room for pride.*
         4) The man's only daughter was 12 years old and at the point of death.
         5) Charles Ryrie, *Nothing hurts parents as much as those things that hurt their children.*
         6) Death is not normal. We were not made for death but for life. It is extremely ugly when it rips away the life of a 12 year old.

      c. He implored Jesus to heal his daughter.
         1) Jairus asked Jesus to go and lay His hands on his daughter.
         2) Laying hands on a sick person for healing associated the power of the healer with the person in need of healing.
         3) He had faith that Jesus could make her well.
            a) At this point, his faith was in what Jesus could do, not in Who He is.
            b) He had probably heard of what Jesus had done for others in the area, like the official's son (John 4:46-54) and the centurion's servant (Luke 7:1-10).
            c) Now, it was his turn to receive a blessing from this miracle worker.

   2. Jesus went with Jairus (24), ***And he went with him.*** **And a great crowd followed him and thronged about him.**
      a. Jesus showed the man compassion and went with Jairus.
         1) William Taylor, *When the Lord heard the entreaty of the broken-hearted father, he at once set out, with the tenderness and compassion that were ever characteristic of him...*
         2) According to the account in Luke, He took His disciples with Him.
         3) Jesus showed compassion that day and He still does today, Hebrews 4:16, *Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

      b. The crowd followed Jesus.
         1) They thronged about Jesus. According to Luke, they were pressing around Him.
         2) It was at that moment there was a heavenly delay when a woman touched Jesus.
         3) We will examine that miracle next month, Mark 5:25-34.

C. The sting of death was removed (35-43)
   1. Devastating news was reported to Jairus (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?***

      a. *While he was still speaking*
         1) This emphasizes the overlap between the story of Jairus' daughter and the story of the woman who touched Jesus.
         2) Jairus must have been excited when Jesus agreed to go with him to his house. But, now, Jesus stopped to minister to a woman. Doesn't He know how critically ill his daughter is and what little time there is before she dies?
         3) Jesus is not bound by space nor time. Our trust must be in Him not the circumstances.

4) Charles Ryrie, *Jairus, like us, probably could not understand the reason for the delay or see the greater purpose behind it. But he had to trust the Lord, for he had no other option. And when we cannot see or understand, we can and must trust the one who has promised never to leave or forsake us.*

b. The news Jairus' feared arrived.
   1) His only daughter had died.
   2) If only Jesus hadn't delayed! An old woman was spared pain but my beautiful daughter is no more!

c. Hope for recovery was seemingly gone.
   1) News was brought to Jairus that there was no longer any need to trouble the Teacher.
   2) There are two faults with that comment.
      a) Jesus is not troubled by our concerns.
         1] *trouble* means to *harass* or *bother.*
         2] 1 Peter 5:7, *casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.*
         3] Psalm 40:17, *As for me, I am poor and needy, but the Lord takes thought for me. You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God!*

      b) Jesus is not just a teacher.
         1] Their thoughts of Jesus were much too small.
         2] He is not just a teacher but the Creator of the universe, the One Who holds the world together by His command, He Who sits at the right hand of the Majesty on High.

   3) Jesus is the source of hope.
      a) We must disregard the unbelief of others and hold firmly to Jesus.
      b) Larry Richards, *By waiting for the worst to happen, Jesus brought even greater joy to Jairus and offered proof of his power.*
      c) A delay can't deter Christ but it can strengthen the faith of those who trust in Him.

2. Jesus called Jairus to increased faith (36), ***But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe.***

   a. The word translated *overhearing* can also be translated *ignoring*.
      1) Jesus ignored what they said and so should Jairus.
      2) There is still hope.

   b. Jesus told Jairus not to fear despite how hopeless the situation appeared to be to others.
      1) Doubt feeds fear but faith is strengthened by hope since Jairus had just witnessed the healing of a woman by Jesus.
      2) Maybe my daughter isn't dead? Maybe there is still hope? Maybe the Teacher can still do something?

   b. Jesus told Jairus to only believe.
      1) Belief does not entertain fear nor doubt.
      2) Jairus needed to keep believing even as he did before the bad news arrived.
      3) He had no other option but to trust Jesus. That's a good thing!
      4) Faith does not depend on how much we believe but in Whom we believe, Jesus Who has all authority!

3. Jesus continued to Jairus' house (37-40a)
   a. He chose Peter, James, and John to go with Him (37), ***And he allowed no one to follow him except Peter and James and John the brother of James.***

      1) Jesus commanded the crowd not to follow Him to Jairus' home.
      2) Only Peter, James and John were permitted to go with Jesus.
         a) They were legal witnesses to His transfiguration, His ordeal at the Garden of Gethsemane and His future resurrection.
         b) Now, they would be witnesses to His authority over death.

      3) Possibly, Jesus wanted to limit exposure to this miracle over death to limit the reaction of the people who were getting more and more excited by what Jesus could do, not Who He is.

b. There was a commotion in the house when Jesus arrived (38-40a)
   1) Everyone in the house was overcome with emotion (38-39), ***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."***

      a) Family members were joined by professional mourners.
         1] The Mishnah, the oral tradition of Jewish law, stated how many mourners and flute players must be hired.
         2] The girl's death must have been expected since they mourners were already there at the moment of death.
         3] For the group in the house, the only response to death was despair.

      b) Jesus told them there was no reason to weep because death would not be the victor that day.
         1] Jesus meant that the little girl was asleep in death.
         2] Death was not final because the Giver of life was present.
         3] Jesus has authority over death, John 11:11-14, *...Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died.*

   2) The crowd responded with unbelief (40a), ***And they laughed at him.***

      a) They laughed at Jesus because they knew the girl was dead.
      b) They assumed there was nothing Jesus could do.
      c) People still laugh at Jesus and His followers but it is much more important to trust the Giver of Life than those dying in their sins.

4. Jesus took authority over death (40b-43)
   a. Jesus took the parents, Peter, James and John into the dead girl's room (40b), ***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.***

      1) The scoffers did not belong where death had no hold.
         a) *Put them all outside*, the word means *to throw out.*
         b) Jesus had no use for their scoffing when faith would soon be rewarded.

      2) Jesus took the girl's father, mother, and the three disciples into the room where the girl lay.
         a) This was a teaching time for Peter, James, and John.
         b) It was a time for Jesus to demonstrate His authority over death because of Who He is, God the Son.

   b. Jesus commanded the girl to rise (41-42), ***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.***

      1) She immediately returned to life.
         a) Her spirit returned, Luke 8:55, *And her spirit returned, and she got up at once. And he directed that something should be given her to eat.*
         b) She got off her death bed and walked.
         c) Death is temporary and one day all who died will arise at Jesus' command, John 5:28-29a, *Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out.*

      2) Those in the room were completely astounded.
         a) It literally means, *they were overcome with great amazement..*
         b) The disciples were amazed, as well. They were still grappling with Who Jesus is.
         c) One day all those who scoff at Christ will bow their knees.

   c. Jesus gave the parents instructions (43), ***And he strictly charged them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.***

      1) They were to tell no one.
         a) Jesus' time had not yet come for crucifixion and He did not want people trying to keep Him from the purpose for which He came.
         b) He did not want miracles to attract people for wrong reasons because He came to proclaim the kingdom of God.
         c) Many people want a Savior but not a Lord.

2) They were told to feed the girl.
   a) She had not been resurrected to a new form of life with an immortal body but restored to physical life that needed sustaining.
   b) The parents were so excited that they needed to be reminded of her basic needs.

CONCLUSION

A. Delay does not mean defeat but an opportunity to deepen one's faith in Him.
B. No situation is hopeless.
C. Jesus not only cares about us but He has the authority to meet our deepest needs.