

POWER OVER DEATH

Pastor Lucas Almeida—Central Baptist Church—January 22nd, 2023

Mark 5:35-43

(ESV)

[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?" [36] But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe." [37] And he allowed no one to follow him except Peter and James and John the brother of James. [38] They came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and Jesus saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. [39] And when he had entered, he said to them, "Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping." [40] 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. [41] Taking her by the hand he said to her, "Talitha cumi," which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise." [42] And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement. [43] And he strictly charged them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

INTRODUCTION

Jesus demands that we place our faith in him, but Jesus also supplies us with the strength we need to trust in him.

BAD NEWS

"The death of a beloved is an amputation." C.S. Lewis, A Grief Observed

Death is the great enemy.

Romans 5:12—*Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned...*

Jairus was faced with a conflict between the theological reality that God is good and his immediate reality of deep suffering.

How do we bridge the gap between our theology and our experience when they seem to clash? We fight for faith.

THE STRUGGLE FOR FAITH

The voice of the world vs. The voice of Jesus

The voice of the world...

...speaks partial truths.

...seeks to distance us from Jesus.

...echoes of the voice of Satan.

The voice of Christ...

...is the voice of wisdom.

...defends us from the voice of the world.

Luke 22:31–32—*“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, [32] but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”*

John 10:27—*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.*

...leads us to refocus our attention from fear to faith.

GOOD NEWS

Jairus' experience is a microcosm of our experience.

Romans 6:23—*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

1 Corinthians 15:25–26—*For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. [26] The last enemy to be destroyed is death.*