

**Mark 5: 21-24 and 35-43; “Christ Conquering Our Fears”, Sermon # 30 in the series – “Astonished at His Teaching”, Delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall on July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015, in the Morning Worship Service.**

Here in these verses we have a beautiful example of faith which is given to us in the person of this man Jairus, one of the rulers of the synagogue. We read that Jairus had faith in God, but the faith that he was exercising was not for himself that he might be healed. It was for his tender little daughter who lay at the point of death. His concern was that she would not die, but live and grow up to be an adult. There can hardly be any more tender feelings than those of a parent for their little child. This man loved his little girl very much. Luke’s gospel says that she was his only daughter, and that she was 12 years old. This morning I want to focus on Jairus’ faith in this particular situation. I think that this is important, for each one of us will want to learn how our faith can grow and become stronger when we are greatly concerned for the salvation of our children or our relatives. Christ can conquer all the fears related to our unbelief. I believe that there are four lessons which we can learn from Jairus’ strong faith. The 1<sup>st</sup> is; that strong faith knows that Jesus can save and yet begs for the miracle to be done. (Verses 21-23) The 2<sup>nd</sup> – That even strong faith will be tempted at times to doubt and fear. (Verses 35 and 36) The 3<sup>rd</sup> – That strong faith will believe Jesus’ analysis of death. (Verses 37-39) And 4<sup>th</sup> – That strong faith will continue to be amazed by the greatness of Christ’s power and grace, even if others ridicule. (Verses 40-43)

**The 1<sup>st</sup> Lesson is – Strong faith knows that Jesus can save and yet begs that the miracle would be done.**

This man knew and believed that Jesus could heal his daughter. He had no doubt heard about Jesus, and he knew that He could perform miracles. But I believe that He had greater faith yet. He also believed that Jesus was the Son of God. In Matthew’s gospel, chapter 9 and verse 18, it says, “behold a ruler came and worshiped him...” Now, a ruler of the synagogue of the Jews would never worship anyone but God alone. This man believed that Jesus was the Son of God. And this is one of the things that is needed in a parent who would see their child come to know the Lord and follow the Lord. It is that they themselves must be people who have saving faith in God and in His only begotten Son Jesus Christ. They must not hesitate to see the Lord Jesus as a Sovereign King and Lord. They know that salvation is not simply a decision of commitment on the part of their child. To be saved requires that a work of grace take place in the heart of that child. They know this because they know what a great work of grace that it took to bring them to the place where they were willing to repent of their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior for the forgiveness of their sins.

Those of you who are parents here this morning; you may want your children to turn out right; to be good girls and boys and fine citizens in the community. But the question is; do you want to see them saved so that they come to know God and have eternal life? Then you must be one who sees the Lord Jesus as the Son of God and be His worshiper just as this man was. Strong faith knows that Jesus can save others, because He has saved them. Are you a saved person or a lost person? A saved person knows that God is sovereign in His free gift of grace in Christ Jesus. To come to have strong faith, you must come to worship the Son of God and believe that the whole matter of eternal life which you seek is in His hands. It is in Christ’s power, as God made manifest in the flesh, that the eternal destiny of your child lies. The other thing which is significant about this man’s faith is that he was not ashamed to beg. Jairus “fell at Jesus’ feet”, it says, “and begged Him earnestly” for this miracle. You must ask yourself; when was the last time that I begged God earnestly for anything, let alone the salvation of my children? I hope that you can see the importance, the awful and great significance, of praying

for the salvation of the souls of your children. It is their eternal life; their eternal destiny that is at stake. Begging is not out of place.

If you knew that your child had been kidnapped and was being held captive, and the captors were threatening to kill the child until a ransom was paid, and you didn't have the means to pay the ransom, but another did; would you not feel constrained to beg that this would be given so that your child could live? I think that you would if you had any depth of feeling at all for your child. Even so, every parent here who has unsaved children and loved ones ought to beg God earnestly in prayer that the ransom which has been paid by the Lord Jesus Christ at the cross would be applied to lives of those who are in danger of losing their souls and going down to pit. Please remember that they are being held captive by the Devil to do his will. God is the only one who can grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth. The grace of the Lord Jesus is the only way that your children can escape from the snare of the Devil. Where is your love; where is your mercy, O parent, if you cannot beg God for mercy on your child's behalf? Are you casual about where they will spend eternity or how they will live their life; whether it is to the glory of God, or foolishly frittered away in worldly pursuits? Each one who lives that way will have all of eternity to regret their sad choices. But begging in prayer may change everything. The Apostle Paul in Romans 10: 1 says these revealing words which show the tenderness of his heart. "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved." You say to me, "But I do not know if they are Elect or not?" "Why should I pray if I do not know whether God will give them saving grace?" And I say to you, why should you not pray? You do not know the eternal counsels of God and you have not looked into the book of His decrees. Since the secret things belong to God, why do you meddle with them? It is your duty to pray. It is God's mercy to answer your prayers. "The effective fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much" with God. (James 5: 16) It is still your duty to pray for your children even if you suspect that God might not show them mercy. After all, how do you really know?

Think of David when the child which he and Bathsheba had conceived by their immorality was struck by the Lord and became sick. It says in 2 Samuel 12: 16, "Therefore David pleaded with God for the child, and David fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground." "So the elders of his house arose and went to him, to raise him up from the ground." "But he would not, nor did he eat food with them." "Then on the seventh day it came to pass that the child died." "And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead." "For they said, 'Indeed while the child was alive, we spoke to him, and he would not heed our voice.' "How can we tell him that the child is dead?" "He may do some harm!" "When David saw that his servants were whispering, David perceived that the child was dead." "Therefore David said to his servants, 'Is the child dead?'" "And they said, 'He is dead.'" "So David arose from the ground, washed and anointed himself, and changed his clothes; and he went into the house of the Lord and worshiped." "Then he went to his own house; and when he requested they set food before him and he ate." "Then his servants said to him, 'What is this that you have done?'" "You fasted and wept for the child while he was alive, but when the child died, you arose and ate food." "And he said, 'While the child was alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, 'Who can tell whether the Lord will be gracious to me, that the child may live?'"

Brethren, this is the kind of attitude, and the kind of faith that you and I need to have, in praying for the conversion of our children; that we would do so, begging God that He might have mercy on them until we know that they have physically died, and there is no hope. This man Jairus knew that the Lord Jesus could heal his daughter, but he wasn't ashamed to beg for the miracle to come to pass. What about you? Will you be known as a prayer warrior in the final analysis? Will you be known as the one who prayed for the salvation of your children every day, begging God for the miracle of the New Birth? The man who is speaking to you this morning is living proof of this kind of strong faith. My father was converted in May of 1970 and he shortly

thereafter began to get up early in the morning and pray and plead for the salvation of his loved ones. He put a prayer mat behind the furnace and poured out his heart to God and eventually his only son, who was stubborn and resistant and perverse in much of his behavior was converted in 1976. He continued to pray for the conversion of every one of his loved ones and even many of the relatives of the people he went to church with. He had prayer lists and went over them often. He was known as a man of faith and a man of prayer. How do you want to be known?

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson is – Even strong faith will be tempted at times to doubts and fears.**

The doubts and fears must have begun with Jairus when Jesus slowed down his walk to Jairus' house to have personal dealings with the woman with the issue of blood. Jairus knew that every moment counted if his daughter was to be saved from death. What is wonderful is that we do not hear a word of murmuring or complaint from him. Nothing is recorded that he doubted or feared that Jesus knew what He was doing. Even though his heart was very full of concern and he wanted to be there at the house with Jesus so that his daughter would be healed, he is not recorded as having protested Jesus slowing things down. Now I hope that you understand that since Jesus knew all things and no doubt knew that this delay would mean that Jairus' daughter would die; that nevertheless He deliberately slowed down the procession. It was right after Jesus healing the woman with the issue of blood that it says: "While He was still speaking, some came from the ruler of the synagogue's house who said, 'Your daughter is dead.'" "Why trouble the Teacher any further?" This must have been the news that Jairus dreaded to hear the most. Now it was too late for his daughter, he must have thought. It is entirely possible that he had never heard of Jesus' raising anyone from the dead, and even if he had, how could he be sure that it was the Lord's will that his daughter should be raised from the dead? Those who brought him the message didn't help his faltering faith at this point. They say: "Why trouble the Teacher any further?" They are saying that Jesus is too important a man to be "troubled" by your concerns. And there is no hope once someone has died. But this was not true of the Lord Jesus, that He was being troubled by Jairus' concerns., And it is evident by His answer to that statement. In verse 36 it says, "As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, 'Do not be afraid; only believe.'"

Now as we think about Jairus' fears let us also think about our own. Jairus, before Jesus spoke this word to him, must have had for a few moments feelings of great anguish and fear come to his mind and heart. It was too late to do anything for his dear daughter. All was fixed forever now. She would never grow up to live a life of serving God, as he had no doubt had prayed for. She would not marry or have a family; she would not and be a comfort and consolation to him in his older years. And perhaps, he did not know whether his daughter was a believer in the Lord or not. And perhaps his faith and his seeking the Lord Jesus to help him had all been in vain. Perhaps he really was troubling the Teacher of Israel with his pleading. Do you ever fall into thinking in these ways in relation to your prayers for yourself and for the well-being and conversion of your children? Let us understand this morning that Jesus knows. He knows all about these thoughts of yours, just as He knew all about the thoughts that Jairus was having, and He came to his rescue immediately. "Do not be afraid; only believe." Jesus came to his rescue with a command for him to do two things; not to be afraid, and to continue to exercise his faith. He wanted him not to let fear develop any further in his heart than he had; and instead focus only on his trust in what Jesus could do; and in this case, what He would do for him and for his daughter.

Let us see that it is fear that leads to unbelief, and it is unbelief that leads to further sins against God. To let fear grow in your heart, if you are already a believer in Christ, is a very damaging thing to your faith. It leads to doubt and a sinful skepticism. You begin to wonder if God can change the things that are difficult, painful, or impossible for you. In doubt and fear,

your mind and heart focuses on what you are not able to do, and this leads to the mistaken conclusion that since you cannot see how your impossible situations can be changed, that God cannot change them. The better attitude is to confess that you do not understand how things can be changed for the better, but to believe that God can change them. That is the nature of faith. And further, it is very important that you see that faith is not of the law. The law commands us to do what is right, but faith does not look at its own resources and strength to do what God commands. The commands of God are holy, righteous, and good, but they cannot be fulfilled to the glory of God from mindset that the strength and the ability to do and keep them comes from ourselves. It comes from God. When I was looking up the word faith in my concordance as I prepared this material, I was astonished to find that there were only two references to the word faith in the entire Old Testament. One is negative and the other positive. The negative one is in Deuteronomy 32: 20. It says, and this is God speaking about the children of Israel, "I will hide My face from them, I will see what their end will be, for they are a perverse generation, children in whom is no faith." The other reference is Habakkuk 2: 4 – "Behold the proud, his soul is not upright in him; but the just shall live by his faith."

It is not because there was no faith in exercise in the people who were believers in Old Testament times, that there are only 2 references to faith. It is because real faith and true faith comes only through our Lord Jesus Christ and it was fully realized in Him. Galatians chapter 3, verse 23 – "But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed." The law, as good a tutor as it is, teaching us about sin and about the righteousness of God, cannot give us life and strength to do God's will. Only Christ can do that, and it comes by faith. "Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith." "But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor." This affects the way that we are justified and the way that we live after we are justified. We live by faith. "Do not be afraid, only believe." When you are trying to do and keep God's commandments, after you have believed in Christ, if you simply look at the law apart from Christ's grace, you will become afraid. You will become afraid because you do not see yourself measuring up. But in looking at Christ and the promised grace that He brings you can rest and trust in Him that everything that you need to live a godly life will be given to you. And everything that is too difficult for you, yea even impossible, He shall help you with. It is too difficult for you, yes it is even impossible, to keep those whom you love, in life. Only God can do this. And so, you must pray and trust Him for it.

When it comes, then, to the salvation of your children, and your fears about them, you are in the same predicament as Jairus. Perhaps some of you do not know, or you do not think about it, that every conversion of a person to Christ is a miracle of the highest sort. Every child and young person's heart; every human heart, is dead in trespasses and sins before conversion. It is only when God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit come in regeneration that spiritual life is conceived in them. It is this act of God that causes them to begin to exercise saving faith. Christ becomes desirable to them and they will therefore believe in Him. This does not happen in a vacuum, but in cooperation with the preaching of the gospel. It is just a great a miracle for a person's spiritual heart to be raised from the dead as it was for this 12 year-old girl to be physically raised from the dead. But parents, do not be afraid; only believe. Since only Christ can do this great and good work, then either you must believe and continue to believe that He can and will do it in conjunction with your prayers, or you won't believe it, and thus you will become skeptical. I would urge you to continue to beg and plead with the Lord, even as Jairus did. I would urge you to continue to believe, even when it has been a long time that you have been praying. Perhaps you might not even see it in your life. But this patient prayerful spirit is glorifying to God. This patience which is in your parents, children, is no excuse for you not to believe today, and even now, in the Lord Jesus. You may be dead, but you are the living dead.

Dead in your trespasses and sins, but alive physically in your body. Do not use the words that I have just preached to think that you have any excuse for delaying your conversion to Christ. If you will believe, you will be saved.

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Lesson is – That strong faith will believe Jesus’ analysis of death.**

(Verses 37-39)

We see here Jesus’ analysis of death and how it should be reacted to, starting in verse 37. “And He permitted no one to follow Him except Peter, James, and John the brother of James. Then He came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and saw a tumult and those who wept loudly.” “When He came in, He said to them, ‘Why make this commotion and weep?’” “The child is not dead, but sleeping.” You have to be a close follower of Jesus in order to see and to understand the greatest of His miracles. The Lord has His purposes even in the death of young people. We do not see it. Jairus did not see it, but he would. Peter, James, and John were asked to come with Jesus because they would be the ones who would be pillars of the church. They would write the gospels, and in James’ case; he would be martyred for his faith. To have a strong faith in regard to death you must accept Jesus’ analysis of it. The reaction to death, even the death of our much loved and highly valued children, is not meant to be a tumult of human grief. This form of mourning for the dead with professional mourners was commonplace in Jesus’ day. But they would never have continued it if they had believed Jesus’ word to them. “Why make this commotion and weep?”, He says. “The child is not dead, but sleeping.” When a child dies, or an adult for that matter, it is their body that sleeps and awaits the Day of the Resurrection of the dead. Jesus will raise all the dead on that last great Day, the Day that He comes again literally and physically. But this incident demonstrates that He will be the One who will do it. Death is a physical sleep to the believer, to the one whom Christ has set His love upon. Christ will awaken them from it when He pleases.

The Christian has no need to fear and dread death if his conscience is clear and He is trusting in Jesus. “The child is not dead, but sleeping.” If you are not trusting in Jesus you have very much to fear and to dread in dying and in death. Death will mean your judgment. There will be no further opportunities to believe and be saved. Your state will be fixed forever, and on the judgment of that great Day you will come forth, being awakened by Jesus. And your sinful soul and your sinful body will joined together forever to be tormented in the lake of fire. Jesus says that that dread place is “where the worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.” Now that is something to make a commotion over; that is something to start a tumult over. When an unbelieving person dies, their body is sleeping, but their spirit is in torment because they are separated from God even at that time of their death. But it is not the case in the death of the righteous. Those people who know that their loved one has been trusting in Jesus do not mourn and grieve as those who have no hope. They believe Jesus’ definition of death. It is a pleasant sleep from which they will awake to a glorious resurrection. Oh that each of us might see this and believe this. Do not be afraid, only believe. Absent from the body is present with the Lord for the believer. To die, and depart to be with Christ is far better than staying here upon the earth. Do you believe this? When a sinner dies their earthly joys and pleasures will all come to an end forever. All the things of this earth which they have taken pleasure in, will cease and will not return. If there is someone here this morning who realizes that they are a sinner, let me ask you this question. Will you not let go of these earthly sinful things and take Christ? Relinquish all of your sins up in repentance before God, and beg for mercy from Christ. Surely you will find it. Dear believer in Christ. Why not live for Christ and be working for your Lord as one who knows that you are preparing to meet the One who has died for you and given you such great grace. For if you live for Him there will be a reward. Why live for the world when there is something which is so much better. Live for eternal things now and an eternal reward hereafter.

**And then the last lesson - Strong faith will continue to be amazed by the greatness of Christ's power and grace, even if others ridicule.** (Verses 40-43)

Verse 40 says, "And they ridiculed Him." "But when He had put them all outside, He took the father and the mother of the child, and those who were with Him, and entered where the child was lying." "Then He took the child by the hand, and said to her, 'Talitha, cumi,' which is translated, 'Little girl, I say to you, arise.'" Here you see the professional mourners ridiculing Jesus when He told them that the little girl was sleeping. They ridiculed Him because they were worldly in their reaction to death, and because they really did not believe Jesus' definition of death as sleep. Death is a sleep for both believers and unbelievers. Concerning unbelievers listen to Psalm 73. Verse 18 says, "Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction." "Oh, how they are brought to desolation, as in a moment!" "They are utterly consumed with terrors." "As a dream when one awakes, So Lord, when You awake You shall despise their image." That is what will happen for all unbelievers on that last Day.

But in Psalm 17, verse 15, we find a good outcome for the one who has faith in Jesus. "As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness." In the passage that we are studying this morning we find just such a good earthly physical outcome for this young lady that we cannot help but believe that her physical resurrection is a picture of the believer in both their spiritual and their physical resurrection. "Immediately the girl arose and walked, for she was twelve years of age." "And they were overcome with great amazement." This is what the believer does spiritually when they come to Christ. They rise from the dead spiritually and they begin to walk. Here, at that moment, Jesus also commanded that she be given something to eat. The one who is given life needs food to sustain that life. Even so the believer does not live by physical bread alone, but by every word which proceeds from the mouth of God. Let me say in closing that every believer ought to rejoice that Christ has raised them from their spiritual death in sin. And oh how glad we will all be, how overcome with amazement we will be when the trumpet shall sound and the dead in Christ rise first and we who are alive and remain, are caught up together with them in the clouds. How full of amazement and joy and wonder we will be when He says to each one of us who believe, "I say to you, arise!"