

Jesus gets the Last Laugh

4.1.18

Easter Sunday

Message 22

Mark Series

Mark 5:21–43 (NIV)

²¹ When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. ²² Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. ²³ He pleaded earnestly with him, "My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live." ²⁴ So Jesus went with him.

A large crowd followed and pressed around him. ²⁵ *And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. ²⁶ She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. ²⁷ When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸ because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed." ²⁹ Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.*

³⁰ *At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?"*

³¹ *"You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?'"*

³² *But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. ³³ Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. ³⁴ He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."*

³⁵ While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher anymore?"

³⁶ Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, "Don't be afraid; just believe."

³⁷ He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. ³⁸ When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. ³⁹ He went in and said to them, **“Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep.”** ⁴⁰ **But they laughed at him.**

After he put them all out, he took the child’s father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. ⁴¹ He took her by the hand and said to her, **“Talitha koum!”** (which means **“Little girl, I say to you, get up!”**). ⁴² Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. ⁴³ He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.

1. Somethings are not funny.

A. As a kid, I liked watching America’s Funniest Home videos.

1. Today, we just watch you-tube.
2. But I remember laughing at the pain of people when I was a kid.
3. Now that I am older, I don’t think some of that stuff is funny.
4. A kid doesn’t realize the cost of:
 1. Messed up weddings,
 2. Wrecked cars,
 3. Or falling and hitting sensitive areas of the body.
 4. The older I get, the less funny pain becomes.

B. Today is April Fool’s, according to the calendar.

1. A day of joking, goofing off, and pranks.
2. I love jokes, and I love having fun.

C. But some things aren’t funny.

1. Like serious medical issues,

2. Sick children.
3. And death.

D. This morning, we look at the story of Jairus and his daughter.

1. He wasn't laughing,
2. Because his little girl was dying.
3. In his desperation, He sought after Jesus and received a miracle.

E. When you leave this place today, what I want you to grasp is this:

1. #1 Today we celebrate Jesus' power over everything: including death.
2. #2 You can trust God with those things you care about the most
3. #3 What seems laughable and impossible with us is possible with God.

2. The description of the father is unique.

A. Rarely do the Gospels list the name of the person asking for the miracle.

1. The demoniac is anonymous.
2. The woman with the issue of blood is too.
3. But Jairus' name is recorded.
4. One reason for this is to add historical evidence to the story.
5. Mark and his audience did not see this as a fairy-tale but as a true event.
6. And it was possible that some in his audience knew about this encounter first-hand.

B. Not only is his name mentioned, We also find that this man was a leader of a synagogue.

1. Why is this important?
2. Many of Jairus' contemporaries were in the process of rejecting Jesus.
3. While many were running away from Jesus, Jairus ran to Him.

C. Then Jairus' posture is described.

1. He is not someone making demands, but someone who is practically begging.
2. This is not easy for most of us to do.
 - a. One of the hardest things for a man to do is beg.
 - b. But he was desperate and knew that his daughter's life depended upon him getting Jesus' attention.

3. Getting God's attention isn't hard.

A. Many of us live like we have to do something incredible to get God's attention.

1. But that isn't the case.
2. The Bible shows us that God loves all of us.
3. We are special to him and created to be in a relationship with him.
4. So we don't have to perform spiritual ju-jitsu to receive God's attention.

B. To receive God's attention, we have to approach with faith.

1. That's what Jairus did.
2. That is also what the woman who was bleeding did in this passage.
3. Faith is the only thing needed for us to receive God's attention.

C. Jairus approaches Jesus with faith.

1. It was faith that led Jairus to leave his house to find Jesus.
2. It was faith that gave him the strength to push through crowds of people to plead with Jesus.
3. It was faith in Jesus that led him to declare, "If you will only put your hands on my daughter's dying body, I know she will be healed."

D. As we grasp Jesus' love for us, we too can approach Jesus with this kind of faith.

1. God doesn't respond to lengthy, flowery prayers.
2. God doesn't respond to bargaining, manipulation, or acts of penance.
3. But He does respond to faith and love.
4. Stop trying to earn God's attention by doing more and start responding to him in faith.

E. Now that Jairus has Jesus' attention, nothing bad should happen, right?

1. Jairus, Jesus, and the disciples are heading to Jairus' house.
2. And as they are approaching, news arrives that says she has died.

3. **Let's read that part again:**

Mark 5:35-36 (NIV)

³⁵ While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher any more?"

³⁶ Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, "**Don't be afraid; just believe.**"

4. Faith doesn't end when tragedy strikes.

A. The little girl was dead.

1. Some of you have experienced the loss of a child.
2. I can only imagine the feelings you experienced and those Jairus must have endured when a parent receives that kind of news.

B. It's pretty easy to understand why the messengers said what they did.

1. Don't bother Jesus anymore, because she is dead.
 - a. Jesus was too late, Jairus' faith too weak or too slow, to prevent the death of his little girl.
 - b. Don't bother Jesus, they said, it's too late now.
2. There are times to stop praying for a miracle.
 - a. Never once have I stood at a casket praying for the person to come back to life
 - b. Unless the Lord tells me otherwise, I don't plan on doing that either.

C. **There are also times when Jesus tells us to keep believing although it seems laughable.**

1. These are the times when the situation looks desperate and impossible, yet deep inside you hear the voice of God that says, "Don't be afraid but believe".
2. It doesn't make sense, yet you feel compelled to continue to believe even though your friends, family, or neighbors are laughing at you.

D. In Vs. 36. Jesus tells the father to not be afraid and believe.

1. The word used for believe means to have faith in someone and to commit or entrust something to someone.”¹

¹ William D. Mounce, [Mounce's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words](#) (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006), 62.

2. Jesus tells the father to commit and entrust the well-being of the girl to him.

a. It seems irresponsible to commit the life and well-being of our loved-ones to someone else.

b. But a truth we see throughout scripture and throughout life is that **no one loves you and the things you love like God does.**

1. No matter how much you love your spouse, Jesus loves them more.

2. No matter how much you love your kids, Jesus loves them more.

3. The safest place we can be is in the love of God.

c. That is where Jairus is at this moment.

1. He is in the love of the Savior, who says, "don't worry I've got this."

2. Thus Jesus leads the way to Jairus' house.

5. At Jairus' house, Jesus is met with unbelief.

A. **Sometimes we have a different name for unbelief: We call it reality.**

1. We often excuse our lack of faith by saying, "that's just reality".

a. When we trust reality before we trust God, then we are walking in unbelief.

b. Faith does not deny reality.

c. Faith doesn't cover over facts.

d. Faith declares trust in God, first and foremost.

e. Faith entrusts (believes) God with the situation and the outcome.

2. When Jesus walked in, he was faced with people telling him what reality was.

a. There was crying and emotion because the girl was dead.

b. This was reality.

B. Jesus walked in announcing a new reality.

Mark 5:37–40 (NIV)

³⁷ He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. ³⁸ When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly.

³⁹ He went in and said to them, **“Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep.”** ⁴⁰ But they laughed at him.

After he put them all out, he took the child’s father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was.

1. Jesus had already declared his intention to raise her from the dead.

a. So he announces a new reality by saying she was not dead but asleep.

b. In our reality, she was dead.

c. But Jesus’ words were an announcement of what he intended to do: wake her up from her dead state.

2. This announcement turned the people’s mourning into laughter.

a. But not a good laughter.

b. A mocking and derision sort of laughter.

c. “Who does this guy think he is that he can raise the dead to life?”

d. **The people in the house presumed they knew more than Jesus did, which is a product of unbelief.**

- e. When you know all the answers, you don't need faith.
- f. When you know all the answers, you don't need Jesus.
- g. When you know all the answers, you mock the one you should worship.

C. Thankfully, the miracle did not depend upon the faith of the crowd.

1. You see, in the background was Jairus.
 - a. This father was still in the room believing.
 - b. The father was probably in the background telling his friends and neighbors to shut up.
 - c. It wasn't their daughter who was dead, it was his.
 - d. And he wasn't giving up.
2. Jesus then kicks everyone out of the house.
 - a. He removes the sources of unbelief from the room.
 - b. He goes to the daughter and speaks life to her dead body.

Mark 5:40–42 (NIV)

⁴⁰ But they laughed at him.

After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. ⁴¹ He took her by the hand and said to her, "*Talitha koum!*" (which means "Little girl, I say to you, get up!").

⁴² Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished.

6. Only Jesus can resurrect dead things.

A. Jesus did two things in this miracle.

1. First, he spoke to the girl.
 - a. Mark tells us the words Jesus used and the meaning.

b. This is Aramaic, which would have been the language of the normal Jewish family.

c. What Jesus was doing was speaking to the girl on her level.

1. This phrase is simple, "Little girl, get up".

2. Maybe her mom or her father said every morning.

3. Jesus, showing his love, speaks her heart language.

d. This shows Jesus' love for her and his sensitivity to the needs of the family.

1. Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, wants to speak to some of you here today.

2. When you are ready to listen, it won't be in a voice you don't understand or in a tone that mocks or derides.

3. No, when the Holy Spirit speaks to you it will be with a voice of love and in a way that is on your level.

2. Second, Jesus touches her.

a. This was against all the religious rules.

b. To touch a dead body was to bring about ritual uncleanness.

c. This didn't bother Jesus.

d. He shows that there was nothing He was willing to do in order to show love and mercy to those whom he loves.

3. When you put these details together, we get a picture of how Jesus deals with us.

a. The Bible tells us we were all sinners.

b. And because we were sinners, we were dead in our sins and trespasses.

c. Because we were dead, we needed someone to give us life.

d. Today, Resurrection Sunday is the day we celebrate Jesus' power over dead things.

B. Can you hear the voice of Jesus calling to the dead things?

1. Dead or dying marriages that he is calling back to life?

2. Finances that are dead, unblessed, and unfruitful?

3. Not only can Jesus resurrect little girls, he can also bring back to life and restore broken homes, broken marriages, and broken futures.

C. Jesus came to Earth to reverse the curse of sin.

1. The curse of sin led to physical and spiritual death.

2. The curse of sin led to a separation between you and God.

3. Jesus came to change all of that.

7. Easter is all about Resurrection.

A. We call it Resurrection Sunday because that was what happened.

1. Jesus was dead, but God raised him back to life.

2. **Dead things come alive when God is involved.**

B. Before Jesus died and was resurrected, He did the same thing for a little girl.

1. Why?

2. Because He wanted to show the world that resurrection was for ordinary people too.

C. Maybe today there is some part of you that is dead.

1. Your relationship with God is dead.

2. Your relationship with your spouse or children is dead or dying.

3. The list could go on.

D. IF so, I have good news... Jesus can bring dead things back to life.

1. If it seems like the devil is laughing at you, mocking you for believing and trusting God, it's time to remember one thing:

2. Jesus gets the last laugh.