

Daily Bread with Brother Hwa-Chi (Not reviewed by the speaker, for personal use only)

Mark 05: 36-43

Brothers and sisters, peace to you, this is Hwa-Chi. It's time to read the Bible again, today, we will read Mark chapter 5, verses 36 to 43.

As Jesus was on His way to Jairus' house, He healed a woman who had been suffering from a 12-year-long issue of bleeding. Jesus not only healed her physical ailment but also brought peace to her soul, and her spirit was born again through faith. By approaching Jesus with faith, she experienced complete healing in her body, soul, and spirit, becoming whole.

Jairus had pleaded with Jesus to come and lay hands on his dying daughter, but due to the delay caused by the healing of the woman, messengers arrived with the heartbreaking news that Jairus' daughter had died. This news surely brought conflicting emotions to Jairus—joy for the healed woman and grief for his deceased daughter. Life is often like a zero-sum game, where one person's gain seems to be another's loss, creating tension and conflict in human relationships. However, God is eternal, and His resources and power are limitless. What God brings to us is for everyone to share and benefit from.

Verse 36: "As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, 'Do not be afraid; only believe.'"

Jesus encourages Jairus to eliminate negative emotions and fears so that he can experience the great work Jesus is about to do in faith. This faith needs to surpass Jairus' previous understanding of religious knowledge and methods. Jairus believed he needed Jesus to lay hands on his daughter before she died for her to be healed, forgetting that the woman with the issue of blood was healed by merely touching Jesus' garment. Jairus didn't yet know that Jesus had greater plans for his daughter. We often limit our faith by certain conditions, forgetting that God is eternal and

infinite. We need to learn to believe according to God, not based on our own understanding or experiences, for God always does greater things.

Verse 37: "And He permitted no one to follow Him except Peter, James, and John the brother of James."

Upon hearing the news of Jairus' daughter's death, the fervor of the crowd likely subsided. Jesus didn't seek the approval of the crowd for performing miracles. Miracles were for those truly in need, and Jesus chose only Peter, James, and John to accompany Him. These three disciples became the core followers by Jesus' side. Although Jairus' family must have been deeply saddened, and the crowd hesitated to disturb, Jesus still considered the feelings of those involved and took only the three closest disciples. Here we see the delicate side of Jesus' humanity.

Verse 38: "Then He came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and saw a tumult and those who wept and wailed loudly."

Upon arriving at Jairus' house, Jesus, accompanied by Peter, James, and John, was met with a scene of sorrow and despair. People were weeping and wailing loudly—most likely Jairus' family mourning the loss of their innocent and beloved daughter. The atmosphere was heavy with grief, and others, perhaps funeral attendants, were in the midst of preparing for the aftermath—organizing personnel, arranging the venue, tuning instruments, and managing various details, all creating a chaotic scene.

Verse 39: "When He came in, He said to them, 'Why make this commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.'"

Jesus took the dominant position immediately upon entering Jairus' house, as the people there were oblivious to the true nature of the situation. Jesus addressed the

crowd, questioning their tumultuous mourning, stating that the child was not dead but asleep. Although, from their perspective, the girl was indeed dead, Jesus saw it differently—she was merely sleeping. If she's asleep, then she can be awake. Dear brothers and sisters, we must recognize the fact that Jesus has already defeated the devil who holds the power of death on the cross. Therefore, those who believe in Jesus and are born again will not experience true death. Our physical lives may come to an end, but the eternal life received from God is everlasting. So, when we cease our earthly toil, we are not dead; we have only fallen asleep. Just as Paul said to the Thessalonians in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14, those who have fallen asleep in Jesus will be brought with Him when He returns.

Verse 40: "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."

The people in Jairus' house, unable to comprehend Jesus' words, mocked Him. In response, Jesus exercised His authority and cast them out. Jesus did not perform miracles for the sake of gaining approval from a curious or sensational crowd; rather, miracles were for those who genuinely needed them. Jesus took only Peter, James, and John along with the child's parents into the room where the girl was. This mother, appearing for the first time in the narrative, would have been deeply concerned for her daughter. Typically, when a child falls seriously ill, the mother's primary role is to care for her, while the father might seek external help. Jairus had fulfilled his duty as a responsible father by seeking Jesus, but the mother, who had been at her daughter's side throughout her illness, would have experienced the gradual loss of her child's life. Jesus, mindful of the mother's needs, took her into account, while the three disciples followed closely as part of their training in discipleship.

Verse 41: "Then He took the child by the hand and said to her, 'Talitha, cumi,' which is translated, 'Little girl, I say to you, arise.'"

In this verse, Jesus took the girl by the hand and said to her, "Talitha, cumi," which is Aramaic. "Talitha" means "little girl" or "little lamb," and "cumi" translates to "arise." It's interesting to note that Mark includes the Aramaic words spoken by Jesus, suggesting that Peter, who was present during this event, may have shared these specific details with Mark. This Aramaic expression adds a personal and intimate touch to the narrative, as it captures the way Jesus interacted with the girl. In the English translation of the NKJV, it would be something like, "Little girl, I say to you, arise."

Verse 42: "Immediately the girl arose and walked, for she was twelve years of age. And they were overcome with great amazement."

The girl, who moments ago had shown no signs of life, immediately got up and walked. She not only rose from her bed but also walked around. Despite being twelve years old, she exhibited the liveliness and energy typical of a healthy child. The people present, especially the three disciples—Peter, James, and John—were astonished. This event surpassed their previous understanding of God. The juxtaposition of the earlier scene with people weeping and wailing (verse 38) and the subsequent great amazement highlights the transformative power of Jesus' presence. It underscores the notion that bringing Jesus into any situation can swiftly turn sorrow into joy, mourning into amazement.

It's noteworthy that Mark mentions the girl's age, emphasizing that she was twelve years old. This age detail connects with the woman suffering from a flow of blood for twelve years, creating a parallel. Both instances highlight the idea that, regardless of life stage, everyone is on a journey towards death, a gradual loss of life. However, encountering Jesus can bring a halt to this inevitable decline. The woman sought Jesus herself and, through her faith, received healing in spirit, soul, and body. In contrast, Jesus took the initiative to meet the girl, reaching out to her and restoring her to life. In both cases, the common thread is the need for Jesus to stop the losing of life.

Verse 43: "But He commanded them strictly that no one should know it and said that something should be given her to eat."

After performing this miracle, Jesus strongly instructed the witnesses, including the girl's parents, not to make the matter known publicly. This instruction contrasts with the incident involving the demon-possessed man in the region of the Gadarenes (Mark 5:1-20), where Jesus encouraged the man to share his testimony. Here in Jewish territory, Jesus sought to avoid unnecessary attention, likely due to increasing opposition from the scribes and Pharisees and the potential interference of curious crowds. Additionally, Jesus cared for the girl's well-being, instructing her parents to provide her with something to eat, recognizing her likely hunger after a period of illness. This shows Jesus' compassion and attention to the practical needs of those He healed.

Let's pray: Heavenly Father, we thank You for the great grace You've bestowed upon us, granting us the wisdom to accept Jesus as our Savior. In every circumstance we face in life, may we feel Your presence and willingly surrender our sovereignty, trusting in Your guidance. At times, our limited perspective leads to impatience, frustration, and despair. Lord, grant us the grace to quiet our hearts, learn to wait patiently, and understand that when the time ordained by You arrives, great things will happen. Help us to recognize that with Jesus, every situation can be transformed. Bless our journey ahead, and we pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.