

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

Luke 8: 49-56

Brothers and sisters, peace be with you, this is Hwa-Chi. Thank the Lord, it's time to read the bible again. Today, we will continue reading Luke chapter 8, verses 49 to 56.

Earlier we read about Jairus, the synagogue ruler in Capernaum, whose 12-year-old daughter was sick and near death; he hurriedly came to Jesus' feet, fell down before Him, and begged Jesus to come to his house, lay His hands on his daughter, and heal her. As a result, on the way they encountered a woman who had suffered from a flow of blood for twelve years; she secretly touched the hem of Jesus' garment and was healed. Yet Jesus did not let the matter pass; instead, He openly asked who had touched Him. Through these events, this woman not only received healing for her disease but also obtained salvation.

Of course, witnessing such a wonderful miracle is a very beautiful thing. But in Jairus's heart, it must have been a mixture of many different emotions. As we said at the beginning, his faith was not like that of the centurion, who only needed one word from Jesus. In Jairus's mind, Jesus had to come to his house and had to lay hands on his daughter. And he knew his daughter's illness was extremely serious and time was extremely urgent, so when he found Jesus, he surely hurried along with Jesus and His disciples toward home.

But the crowd was really large, making the entire forward progress very slow; his heart must have been anxious like ants on a hot pan. Not only that, in the middle of the process, a woman with a flow of blood appeared, causing the whole group's advance to stop again. On one hand witnessing another's healing, on the other hand his own daughter was dying soon.

Verse 49: "While He was still speaking, someone came from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, 'Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the Teacher.'"

This statement must have struck Jairus like a bolt from the blue. Originally, Jesus was the one he had invited, and Jesus was willing, but as a result, on the hurried way back home, they accidentally encountered so many people and then this woman with a flow of blood, slowing the entire progress. It slowed to the point that someone from home came to report the bad news: the daughter had already died; do not trouble the Teacher anymore.

Jairus's heart must have sunk to the bottom in an instant. Jesus is the Son of God; of course He knew, and He was willing to use this event to help Jairus increase his faith and also to help the disciples following Him gain a deeper recognition of their Teacher.

Verse 50: "But when Jesus heard it, He answered him, saying, 'Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well.'"

This word from Jesus is something every one of us who belongs to Him should firmly keep in our hearts. No matter what extremely difficult situation we encounter, Jesus will say to us, "Do not be afraid; only believe, and you will be saved." He is the Lord of all things, the Creator of the universe, the Son of God; not only that, He loves you and was willing to leave the throne in heaven to come to earth and become the Lamb of atonement. He personally says to each one of us, "Do not be afraid; only believe, and you will be saved." Right at the moment when Jairus's mood was at its lowest, when he had the least ability to believe, Jesus immediately gave him this word: "Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well."

Verse 51: "When He came into the house, He permitted no one to go in except Peter, James, and John, and the father and mother of the girl."

Jesus has His principles in what He does; some miracles He performs openly, some secretly. The principle is actually very simple: it is to bring the greatest benefit to those who believe in Him. When you come with an unbelieving heart to challenge Him, He will not perform any miracle before you.

Verse 52a: "Now all wept and mourned for her;"

Because the messenger had said she was already dead, the whole house was filled with weeping. A beautiful little child, 12 years old, at the age that should be the happiest, had suddenly died—what an utterly heartbreaking thing. Therefore many people were weeping and mourning for this child.

Verse 52b: "but He said, 'Do not weep; she is not dead, but sleeping.'"

Jesus defines death differently from us. Death is eternal separation; true death is when one day you go into the lake of fire—that is true eternal separation from God. For everyone who believes in Jesus Christ, although sometimes the body stops functioning, our spirit and soul do not die. Jesus said: "Do not weep; she is not dead, but sleeping."

Verse 53: "And they ridiculed Him, knowing that she was dead."

They did not know Jesus' definition of death, much less His great power: He can calm wind and sea, He can heal diseases, He can cast out demons, and He can even raise the dead. Jesus then took Peter, James, John, and the girl's parents into the room.

Verse 54: "But He put them all outside, took her by the hand and called, saying, 'Little girl, arise.'"

The same event is recorded in Mark 5:41, where Mark chooses to record it in Aramaic: Jesus said to her, "Talitha, cumi," (which is translated, "Little girl, I say to you, arise"). And the Chinese translation for "little girl" corresponds to the original Aramaic meaning of "little lamb." Jesus very tenderly called Jairus's daughter by her nickname: Little lamb, arise!

Verse 55: "Then her spirit returned, and she arose immediately. And He commanded that she be given something to eat."

What was originally a scene of weeping and sorrow immediately turned into joy. Not only that, Jesus commanded that she be given something to eat. Jesus was truly full of humanity; He knew the heaviness in Jairus's heart throughout the journey. He encouraged him not to fear, only to believe. And He told him that his daughter would surely be made well. When they came to the house, disregarding the crowd's ridicule, He only took a few people into the room, then tenderly called Jairus's daughter, Little lamb, arise! With such a tender call, the little girl awoke. Jesus knew she was hungry and immediately told her parents to give her something to eat.

Verse 56: "And her parents were astonished, but He charged them to tell no one what had happened."

For the crowds pressing around Him, for those in Jairus's house who were weeping yet did not believe in Jesus, Jesus chose not to perform the miracle before them and told her parents not to tell anyone what had been done. For those truly in need, who are willing to humbly come before Jesus, He performs miracles and heals. For those crowding to watch the excitement or unbelievably mocking, Jesus even chooses not to let them know He performed a miracle.

Whether a miracle can be done upon us depends entirely on our faith and our attitude toward the Lord Jesus Christ. When you believe He can do it, like the woman with the flow of blood, and when you are willing to humble yourself before

Him, His grace will surely come upon you like a miracle. On the contrary, if you harbor an evil heart of unbelief and stand by wanting to watch the show, Jesus actually has no burden toward you; He would rather not let you know He performed a miracle.

Let us put these two events together again: this little girl lived her first 12 years of life on earth; and this woman with the flow of blood had suffered from it for exactly 12 years—12 years of constant bleeding or leaking away life. This also speaks of every person in their lifetime: if you have not met Jesus Christ, you are a person wasting life and leaking away life until you die. The moment we meet Jesus, our flow is immediately healed; we are immediately raised from death to life. Jesus is the only need in the life of every child of God.

Let us pray together: Lord! Help us. In our lives, come and meet us, giving our life a new meaning. Also raise us from death, so we no longer live without hope in sins and transgressions. On one hand we thank You for Your grace; on the other hand we truly ask You to help us, so that at any time when we are in need, we can humbly come before You to touch You. In every matter we experience, if You are there, that matter has eternal value. Help my life this day to be full of eternal value and full of meaning. Bless me, we pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.