

## 榮耀生命的主——马可福音 5:21-43 (下)

### Glorious Lord of Life — Mark 5:21-43 (2)

#### *Introduction, outline*

- Scripture reading: Mark 4:35-43
- Scripture teaching: Mark 5:21-43 (NASB1995)

**21** When Jesus had crossed over again in the boat to the other side, a large crowd gathered around Him; and so He stayed by the seashore. **22** One of the synagogue officials named Jairus came up, and on seeing Him, fell at His feet **23** and implored Him earnestly, saying, “My little daughter is at the point of death; *please* come and lay Your hands on her, so that she will get well and live.” **24** And He went off with him; and a large crowd was following Him and pressing in on Him. **25** A woman who had had a hemorrhage for twelve years, **26** and had endured much at the hands of many physicians, and had spent all that she had and was not helped at all, but rather had grown worse— **27** after hearing about Jesus, she came up in the crowd behind *Him* and touched His cloak. **28** For she thought, “If I just touch His garments, I will get well.” **29** Immediately the flow of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction. **30** Immediately Jesus, perceiving in Himself that the power *proceeding* from Him had gone forth, turned around in the crowd and said, “Who touched My garments?” **31** And His disciples said to Him, “You see the crowd pressing in on You, and You say, ‘Who touched Me?’” **32** And He looked around to see the woman who had done this. **33** But the woman fearing and trembling, aware of what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. **34** And He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace and be healed of your affliction.” **35** While He was still speaking, they came from the *house of* the synagogue official, saying, “Your daughter has died; why trouble the Teacher anymore?” **36** But Jesus, overhearing what was being spoken, said to the synagogue official, “Do not be afraid *any longer*, only believe.” **37** And He allowed no one to accompany Him, except Peter and James and John the brother of James. **38** They came to the house of the synagogue official; and He saw a commotion, and *people* loudly weeping and wailing. **39** And entering in, He said to them, “Why make a commotion and weep? The child has not died, but is asleep.” **40** They *began* laughing at Him. But putting them all out, He *\*took* along the child’s father and mother and His own companions, and entered *the room* where the child was. **41** Taking the child by the hand, He said to her, “Talitha kum!” (which translated means, “Little girl, I say to you, get up!”). **42** Immediately the girl got up and *began* to walk, for she was twelve years old. And immediately they were completely astounded. **43** And He gave them strict orders that no one should know about this, and He said that something should be given her to eat.

- He’s a powerful preacher who knows how to grab people’s heart; he preaches all around the world and everyone has heard his message; but people don’t like him at all; no one ever invites him to preach; but his message has gone all over the world; multitudes have wept over his message; no other preacher can stir up emotions like him; he’s not very good with words but no one can reject the truth he preaches; no heart can remain unmoved by the truth he preaches. — What’s his name?
- Hint - **Ecclesiastes 7:2** "It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting, for death is the destiny of every man; the living should take this to heart."
- Outline:

Title: Glorious Lord of Life

1. The Lord Listens to Prayers (vv 21-24)
2. The Lord Works Providentially (vv 25-34)
3. The Lord Strengthens Faith (vv 35-37)
4. The Lord Knows True Reality (vv 38-40)
5. The Lord Gives Life (vv 41-42)
6. The Lord Cares Meticulously (vs. 43)

### **The Lord Listens to Prayers (vv 21-24)**

- “implored Him earnestly”: Jairus is a distinguished synagogue official, wealthy and well-respected. However, he’s still helpless in the face of death and the only thing he can do is to fall at Jesus’ feet and beg the Lord of life. Jairus and the hemorrhaging woman have nothing in common, but they are connected by one thing – suffering in life. Jairus knows that only Jesus can save.
- “*please* come and lay Your hands on her”: Why the laying on of hands? Doesn’t he know Jesus can heal with one word? He probably doesn’t have that much faith yet. His faith still needs to grow.
- “And He went off with him”: Jesus listens to prayers. He guides us according to the measure of our faith.

### **The Lord Works Providentially (vv 25-34)**

- On the way to Jairus’ house, Jesus intentionally healed the hemorrhaging woman in front of Jairus. Jairus may have been anxious when Jesus stopped for the woman, but it was by no means a waste of time. The woman's faith and the dialogue she had with Jesus must’ve influenced Jairus. Jesus is the Lord who works providentially, causing all things to work together for the benefit of those who love God.

### **The Lord Strengthens Faith (vv 35-37)**

- “Your daughter has died”: According to Mathews 9:18, even after hearing this bad news, Jairus continued to implore Jesus for his daughter’s healing.
- The faith Jairus saw in the hemorrhaging woman is the faith he needs now. When all human efforts have failed and all natural hopes have been shattered, there is still faith in the power of Jesus to provide for all our needs.
- “Do not be afraid *any longer*, only believe.”: A gentle command. “Believe” is in the present tense, that is, persisting in faith. You’ve come to me in faith to begin with; now that you’re in trouble, keep on believing in me.

【Insight】 Our faith is often unstable, often mixed with unbelieving fear, isn't it? Jesus also tells us not to be afraid, but to keep on believing. The content of the belief is not that God must heal me or He must get me out of trouble, but that God has the power to do anything, and He also has the wisdom to decide what is best for me. What strengthened Jairus' faith were the words of Jesus: "Don't be afraid, only believe." If you're going through a difficult time, maybe you need to read the Bible all the more diligently.

## **The Lord Knows True Reality (vv 38-40)**

- “...commotion, and *people* loudly weeping and wailing”: Jewish funerals are a chaotic thing. Everyone cries and wails at the top of their lungs, whether or not they are truly sad. There’re professional mourners as well as “flute-players”, according to Matthew, who would play dissonant off-key notes to bring more sadness to the scene. The entire funeral is a show, designed to make people feel the sadness of death to the fullest.
- “They *began* laughing at Him.”: But they soon burst into a laughter, which indicates their previous crying was all but a show.
- “The child has not died, but is asleep.”: Does Jesus have any medical knowledge? Her body is motionless and her heart has stopped beating. Well, truth is: Jesus is the only one who knows true reality.

【Theology Point 1】 The New Testament often uses sleep as a metaphor for the death of Christians, because death is not the end of believers, but resurrection and the eternal life. (cf. Acts 7:60; 1 Corinthians 15:6; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-15)

【Theology Point 2】 There are three levels of death: 1. Physical death (common sense); 2. Spiritual death, dead in sins and transgressions (Ephesians 2:1, 5); 3. Eternal death, “the second death”, aka hell (Revelation 2:11; 20:6, 14; 21:8). Three kinds of death can be summed up in one word: separation from God. To die is to be away from God. The differences lie in the level and form of being away from God.

- “putting them all out”: No wasting time with these guys. They know nothing. They can only cause trouble.

## **The Lord Gives Life (vv 41-42)**

- “Talitha kum!”: The reason why the original text is kept is to invite us to experience it personally. These words must’ve been imprinted on Peter’s heart forever, so that every time he talks about it, he acts it out by using the very words, for this is his own personal experience. The Bible also invites us to picture ourselves in the scene to feel it. We are invited to stand in Peter’s shoes and see this scene unfold before our eyes. Picture it: Jesus takes the child’s hand and says: Talitha Kum!

【Spiritual Association】 When Jesus gives you life, you just can’t refuse it. When God calls a soul out of death and into life, that person has no ability to resist. That’s called regeneration. Just like physical birth, you were completely passive, you did not give birth to yourself; so it is with spiritual birth, you were completely passive. The response of spiritual life is repentance from sin and faith in Jesus. When you find yourself responding this way in your life, you know that Jesus has commanded you to get up from the death of your soul.

- “Immediately the girl got up and *began* to walk”: She didn’t say: let me lie here for a bit longer; let me finish this dream. Luke said “her spirit returned” (Luke 8:55). Not just her heartbeat, but her spirit also returned.

【Insight】 Life is body and soul, a common sense at that time. No one denied this fact before atheism became popular. Jesus heals sickness and gives resurrection life, body and soul are both under his control.

### **The Lord Cares Meticulously (vs. 43)**

- “And He gave them strict orders”: The strict order not to tell people is due to Jesus’ careful planning of the timing of His ministry. Jesus doesn't always explain why, nor do we need to know. The people here have seen enough miracles, knowing one more wouldn't do them any good, but it'd only increase their responsibility before God. So this prohibition is actually an act of mercy to them.
- “He said that something should be given her to eat.” : Everyone else has forgotten she needs to eat! Even her parents didn't see this need. Mr. and Mrs. Jairus were all astonished, and the disciples had no eyes to see this need either. Only Jesus cared for this little girl in such a meticulous way. Only He noticed her need for food and made specific arrangement for it.

【Insight】 Jesus not only cares about our souls, but also our bodies. Both body and soul were created by Him, and both need his grace to sustain. So we give thanks both for the salvation of souls and for the provision of food. So we pray both for the sanctification of the soul and for the healing of the body.

【Caution】 Sometimes, the spiritual zeal of Christians can become so high that they only care about spiritual needs, completely neglecting physical needs of themselves or others. Worse, some may even judge others on this, as if it's unspiritual to make any reasonable plan for their physical needs. Let's not make such mistakes. Our Lord cares for us meticulously.

- “And immediately they were completely astounded”: Why the astonishment? They've already seen everything! They just saw four miracles in a row (4:35-5:43). They were already amazed at the calming of the storm! What's so surprising here? Don't they know that Jesus is God? Have they not yet come to this obvious conclusion?

【Insight】 Do we know all the implications from the truth “Jesus is God”? Do we really fully know that Jesus rules the natural world, the spiritual world, heals the sick, and raises the dead? When life goes well, we say we get it, and it's easy. Give us a little trial, a difficult circumstance to test us, and see if we still know Jesus is God.

### ***Conclusion:***

***May the Lord strengthen our faith and help us know Him more!***