

**Mark 5: 21-23 and 35-43; "Do not be Afraid, only Believe", Sermon # 30  
in the series - "Astonished at His Teaching", Delivered by Pastor Paul  
Rendall on February 8th, 2009, in the Morning Worship Service.**

Here in these verses we have the second example of faith that is given to us in the person of Jairus, one of the rulers of the synagogue. Last week we looked at the faith of the woman with the issue of blood and how she thought to herself, "If I can but touch the hem of His garment, I shall be made well." Her faith had made her well, but we saw that her faith was tested, though, right away after she was healed, by Jesus' stopping the whole procession who were on the way to Jairus' house and asking, "Who touched my garments?" Being put on the spot like that, and knowing that she had been healed, she came forward and confessed the whole truth. In the process, she was publicly confessing her faith before men. This was something that she had not wanted to do. She had wanted everything to remain secret. But the Lord Jesus wanted to be her Lord, and guide, and friend, and not simply her healer. And He wanted her to confess her faith so that others could benefit from knowing that He does have the power to save, and He does have the power to heal all diseases. And so he asked the all important question, "Who touched Me?" Have you touched the Lord Jesus spiritually, by faith? Then He will also make sure that you will have opportunities to confess that faith publicly. The one who believes in Jesus will not be put to shame. But the one who believes in Him ought not to be ashamed, either, of what He has done for them. When put to the test, or put on the spot, as this woman was, you should not be afraid to confess what Jesus has done for you. Instead you ought to be like her, in fear and trembling, thinking about the fact that you might be trying to have a secret faith, and that you are one who is reluctant to confess Him. Jesus says in Luke 9: 26, "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father, and of the holy angels." The way that Jesus would have you declare your faith publicly in our day, is in the waters of Baptism. Some of you may have faith in Jesus, but you have never declared it publicly in this way. I pray that you would consider again the honor that will come to the Lord Jesus if you do, and how other people might be benefited eternally by hearing and seeing your public confession of faith.

In this text we are looking at this morning, we see that Jairus had faith, 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 physically live and grow up to be an adult. There are hardly any more tender feelings that can be aroused than that of a loving father or mother for their little child. This man felt the anguish of this possible loss of his dear one greatly. Luke's gospel says that this was his only daughter and that she was 12 years of age. It is his faith in this situation that we want to focus on this morning. Because I believe that

his faith is the kind of faith that all parents who desire the conversion of their children should want for themselves. These lessons will be valuable also to all those who desire the conversion of their unsaved relatives. All of us will be able to learn from this man Jairus, lessons of how we should think and how we should behave when we are greatly concerned about our unsaved children or relatives. I believe that there are four lessons which we can learn from Jairus' strong faith. The First is; that strong faith knows that Jesus can save and yet begs for the miracle to be done. (Verses 21-23) The Second is; that even strong faith will be tempted at times to doubt and fear. (Verses 35 and 36) The Third - That strong faith will believe Jesus' analysis of death. (Verses 37-39) And 4th - Strong faith will continue to be amazed by the greatness of Christ's power and grace, even if others ridicule. (Verses 40-43)

**The First Lesson - 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 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 of this same incident, " behold a ruler came and worshiped him..." Now, a ruler of the synagogue of the Jews would never worship anyone but God alone. I believe that this man believed and understood Jesus to be the Son of God. And this is one of the main requisites as well for the parent who would see their child come to know the Lord and follow the Lord. It is that they themselves must be a person who has 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 in Jesus Christ is not simply a decision of commitment on the part of their child. It requires that a work of grace take place in the soul 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 be here this morning wanting your children to turn out right; to be good girls and boys and fine citizens in the community that they live in. 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 see that the whole matter of eternal life that you seek, or that you seek for others, is in His hands. It is in Christ's power, as God made manifest in the flesh, that the eternal destiny of yourself and your child lies.

The other thing that this man knew and understood, that you also should know and understand, is that, in order for the Lord Jesus to save your child, you must not be ashamed to beg for their healing or their conversion. This man was not ashamed

to beg. He "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? Do you 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. If they are not saved 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. It is still our duty to pray for our children even if we suspect that God might not show them mercy. 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 continue to pray for the conversion of our children; that we 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 2nd Lesson - 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' dealing with the woman with the issue of blood that, "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.

"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. Verse 36 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 prayed for. She would not marry and have a family and be a comfort and consolation to him in his older years. We do not know, 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 and he really was troubling the Teacher of Israel with all of it. 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, and in this case would, do for him and his daughter. 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 that God can't change the things that are difficult, painful, or impossible for you. In doubt and fear, our mind and heart focuses on what we are not able to do, and this leads to the mistaken conclusion that since we cannot see how our impossible situations can be changed, that God cannot change them. The better attitude is to confess that we 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, that we would 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. It is because real faith and true faith comes through our Lord Jesus Christ and 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 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 trying to do and keep God's commandments, after we have believed in Christ, if we simply look at them apart from His grace, we will become afraid. But in looking at Christ and the promised grace that He brings we can rest and trust in Him that everything that we need to live a godly life will be given to us, and everything that is too difficult for us, yea even impossible, He shall help us with. It is too difficult, yea impossible to keep those whom we love in life. Only God can do this. We must pray and trust Him for it.

When it comes, then, to the salvation of our children, and our fears about them, we 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 us. It is this act of God that causes us to begin to exercise saving faith. Christ becomes desirable to us and we 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 is for a person like this 12 year old little 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 don't believe that either He can or will do it, and thus you 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 when it has been a long time coming and perhaps you might not even see it in your life. This patient prayerful spirit which is in your parents, children, is no excuse for you not to believe today, and even immediately 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. If you do not believe, you will die eternally and perish an eternal monument to God's love in giving you parents

who prayed over you and preached the gospel to you. God's love and mercy are found in the gospel. Lay hold of them now!

**The 3rd 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 in helping to write the gospels, and in James's case; the first to be martyred for the 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 way of mourning 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?" "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 him or her 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 good reasons to fear and dread dying. 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, your soul and sinful body joined together forever to be tormented in the lake of fire, "where the worm does not die and the fire is not quenched." That is something to make a commotion over; that is something to start a tumult over. When an unbeliever 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 not so in the death of the righteous. Those who know that their loved one has been trusting in Jesus; they 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, this morning. 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? Dear sinner; when you die your earthly

joys and pleasures will all come to an end forever. All the things which you have taken pleasure in will cease and will not return. Why hold on to them now? Why not relinquish them up in repentance before God, and beg for mercy from Christ. Dear believer in Christ. Why not live and be working for God and Christ as one who knows that they are preparing to meet their Maker, their Savior, their Lord, their Master, and Friend. For that is truly the meaning of life. Why not live a more godly life and put away the desires of the flesh and refuse the pull of the world! Oh how thankful you will be at your death if you do so.

**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. Listen to Psalm 73 concerning the awakening of the unbeliever to judgment. 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 great Day. But Psalm 17, verse 15 gives the 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 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 will we 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!"



