

Pentecost 5B (July 20) (A Sermon by Rev. Ron Friedrich)

Mark 5:21-24,35-43 (NirV)

²¹ Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee in a boat. It landed (arrived) at the other side. There a large crowd gathered around him. ²² Then a man named Jairus came. He was a synagogue ruler. Seeing Jesus, he fell at his feet. ²³ He begged Jesus, "Please come. My little daughter is dying. Place your hands on her to heal her. Then she will live." ²⁴ So Jesus went with him...

[While Jesus was going to Jarius' house, he stopped for a short time to heal another sick person.]

³⁵ While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus. He was the synagogue ruler. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher anymore?" ³⁶ But Jesus didn't listen to them. He told the synagogue ruler, "Don't be afraid. Just believe."

³⁷ He let only Peter, James, and John, the brother of James, follow him. ³⁸ They came to the home of the synagogue ruler. There Jesus saw a lot of confusion. People were crying and sobbing loudly. ³⁹ He went inside. Then he said to them, "Why all this confusion and sobbing? The child is not dead. She is only sleeping." ⁴⁰ But they laughed at him.

He made them all go outside. He took only the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him. And he went in where the child was. ⁴¹ He took her by the hand. Then he said to her, "*Talitha koum!*" This means, "Little girl, I say to you, get up!" ⁴² The girl was 12 years old. Right away she stood up and walked around. They were totally amazed at this. ⁴³ Jesus gave strict orders not to let anyone know what had happened. And he told them to give her something to eat.

If you watch preachers on TV, you often see this message:

[QUOTE in the style of a TV preacher, showing you don't really agree with what they say.]

"If you know Jesus, and if you have enough faith, you can always have good health and wealth (rich). If you are sick or poor, that proves you don't have enough faith."

TV preachers often say:

*"A sick Christian brings shame to Christ.
A poor Christian brings shame to Christ.
And if you don't have much faith, then Jesus can't help you."*

This religion is named, "Word of Faith." And really, many people who don't know the Bible, swallow this false teaching.

Many people tell us: if they believe God, that will force God to give them many things.

But our story today shows us a very different picture of Jesus. And if we look in the Bible, and read all the stories about Jesus raising dead people to life again, we see more clearly His way.

Question: How many times in the Bible can we see Jesus making a dead person alive again?

Answer: Three.

[1] Jairus' daughter.

[2] a young man, son of a WIDOW mother in the city named NAIN. That's the story where Jesus stopped the funeral, and made the boy alive again.

[3] Jesus' friend named LAZARUS. He had two sisters: MARY and MARTHA.

The Bible says Jesus raised other people to life, but the Bible informs us about those three.

All three stories have some things similar (same).

In two stories, Jesus got summoned (called) to go help while that person was still alive.

Jairus' daughter was very sick, and also Lazarus. Both were near death. Both their families were very worried. They asked Jesus to come and heal.

But for both, Jesus waited. Jesus delayed (postpone) going to the sick person's home. Jairus' daughter died before Jesus arrived. And when Jesus went to help Lazarus, his body was already in the grave.

When all hope was gone (finish!), Jesus arrived. People met Jesus, not with faith, but feeling disappointment and doubt.

In other healing miracles, Jesus often praised people for their faith in Him. Jesus told people, "Your faith saved you."

But question: In those three resurrection stories -

- [1] Jairus' daughter
- [2] Young man, widow's son
- [3] Lazarus

- in their families WHO showed faith in Jesus, expecting Jesus will immediately raise the dead to life again? Who (finish) believed that?

NO ONE!

When Jesus entered Jairus' house, he saw no faith. People told Jesus to go away because He was too late. Remember how their family friends laughed at Jesus. Where is faith? They had none.

No matter. Their doubt didn't stop Jesus. Jesus still felt mercy. Jesus still wanted to give His gift of Love. So Jesus gave the command (order):

- [1] "Young girl, stand up!"
- [2] "Young man, sit up!"
- [3] "Lazarus, come out!"

Another question: In all three stories, what did those three dead people DO to make themselves alive?

Answer: They did NOTHING!

They were dead! Finish! They could do nothing to make themselves alive again.

Jesus decided to give them life.
And only Jesus can make them alive.

Only Jesus can accept responsibility for what happened in those miracles. Dead people can't. Their families can't. Only Jesus can.

The stories about resurrection for Jairus' daughter, and for Lazarus, and for the young man, all teach us something important about God's way, how He saves us.

Question: Who decided to save us? God? or ourselves? Which?

Answer: God.

When we are dead in our sins, our spirit is the same as dead people. We can do nothing to improve ourselves to become good enough for heaven. Our natural desire is rebellion against God. But God desires for us to join His family. And he knows we cannot do that ourselves - same as an ORPHAN baby can do nothing to get adopted. God adopts us into His family. God signs our legal adoption papers with the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, bleeding for us on the cross.

Sin leads us to both physical (body) death in the grave, and to eternal death in hell. But because of all that Jesus finished doing for us, God can forgive our sin, and give us true hope for life forever with Him.

Same as Jairus and his family experienced one day:
The life we now have in God's family: 100% His gift.
Our faith in Christ: 100% His gift.
That love God shows through us to other people: 100% His power.
Praise for way God made us: 100% His.

[If you will have Lord's Supper with your worship service you may close with this...]

Remember how Jesus told Jairus and his wife to give their dead daughter, now alive, -- "give her something to eat."

Jesus now also gives us "something to eat." Not as food for our bodies, but truly life for our souls.

[Show the bread and wine for communion. Then continue with your worship.]