

A 'Mere Death' Experience

I. Test Of Faith

(Mk.5:21-43)

Mk.5:21

- 5:3, asked to leave; place of death
- NW side of Galilee: multitude waits for Him



Mk.5:22

- Ruler: power, respect, influence . . .
- Falls at Jesus' feet in presence of crowd.
[Ac.10]

Mk.5:23

- Begged earnestly [fervently, urgently].
- Little daughter at point of death.
- Knows Jesus' hands can heal her.
 - Not His voice? [cf. Mt.8:13]
 - An only child, Lk.8:42 [7:12]
- Timing: *before she dies* (irreversible).

Mk.5:24

- Son of God
- Creator
- Ruler of universe
- Yet, cares about lowly Jew with sick daughter . . . as great crowd jostles Him.

Interruption: Mk.5:25-34, woman (1/2)

- Both she and Jairus' daughter . . .
 - Reveal Jesus helping women . . .
 - Need help that only He can give . . .
 - Described by “twelve”
 - Involve faith (woman's own'; father's)
 - Involve touch (garment; hand, 41)
 - Unclean (blood; death)

Interruption: Mk.5:25-34, woman (2/2)

- 25-26: twelve years; many doctors; worse. Lk.8:43, Luke the physician...
- 27-28: timid woman; touches garment.
- 29-30: dried up; healthy!
- 31-33: requires her to confess her faith and her cure.
- 34: peace.

Twelve years: one touch

Resumption: Mk.5:35

- “Your daughter is dead...”
 - Worst fears...
 - Death reigns.
 - Why bother Jesus? (v.23)

Mk.5:36

- What Jesus could have said:
 - “I’m sorry”
 - “I’ve done all I can do”
 - “If only you had come earlier”
 - “She’s in a better place”
- What Jesus did say:
 - Do not fear . . . Only believe.

Mk.5:36

1. Do not fear . . .

- Where faith lives, fear dies.
- Only One is undeterred by the news.

2. Only believe [present imperative].

- Faith brought him to Jesus... (healer)
- Next level: Jesus... (death killer)

- Daughter not required to believe; only the father.

Mk.5:37-38

- Three witnesses. 1 Pt.5:13
- House: weeping / wailing...

Mk.5:39

- Death is a nap!

Mk.5:40

- Ridiculed Him –
- Probably professionals

¹⁷ Thus says the Lord of hosts: “Consider and call for the mourning women, That they may come; And send for skillful wailing women, That they may come. ¹⁸ Let them make haste And take up a wailing for us, That our eyes may run with tears, And our eyelids gush with water” – Jeremiah 9

Mk.5:39

- Death is a nap!

Mk.5:40

- Ridiculed Him –
- Probably professionals

¹⁶ Therefore the Lord God of hosts, the Lord, says this: “There shall be wailing in all streets, And they shall say in all the highways, ‘Alas! Alas!’ They shall call the farmer to mourning, And skillful lamenters to wailing” – Amos 5

Mk.5:41

- How could an imposter survive this?
 - Lk.8:53-54
- *Talitha, cumi.*

Death understands Aramaic

Recalls His exact words

Unclean tombs / blood / death

Mk.5:42

- Power of Jesus' word: immediate / amazing response.
 - Arose . . . began walking
- Spirit returned (Lk.8:53-55)
- Age 12: bat mitzvah – 12 years, 1 day
bar mitzvah – 13 years, 1 day
- Amazement

Mk.5:43

- No one should know it [gives Him time to get away?]
 - Not possible in Lk.7, or Jn.11.
- Time to eat!

I. Test Of Faith

II. Teaching Of Faith

1. Tragedy often strikes when all seems well

- Death may come when we least expect it.
- Jairus thought he would die before his daughter. (Job)

2. Jesus, undisputed master of death

- Daughter of ruler ... Lazarus ... Jesus
- Jesus is Supreme ...
 - Physician of physicians
 - Preacher of preachers
 - Prince of kings
 - Judge of judges
 - Conqueror of death . . .

3. Jesus rules demons, raging seas, disease, death

- Jesus is Lord of death and life
- Jesus is commentary on Ps.23:4
 - Ps.116:15
 - Fate of death, 1 Co.15
 - Sleep, 1 Th.4

On verge of victory –
no time to mourn

4. Be prepared

- Live now for then
- Ac.9:40, *Tabitha, arise*

5. Lord expects us to learn lessons from tragedies.

- Lk.13
- Jn.9, 11

6. Some claim to have died and returned...

- Jairus' daughter says nothing about what she saw or experienced in death.
- Also: Lk.7; Jn.11-12
- 2 Co.12, Paul

7. What a friend we have in Jesus.

- He mercifully goes with Jairus
- Compassion for parents, tenderness to child
- Power over death
- Concern for her (feed her)

Jesus loved common people

8. Lord's disciples cannot lose

- If His compassion on parents restores daughter to life, **they** are thankful.
- If His compassion on child leaves her in glory . . . **she** is thankful.
- “Do not be afraid; just keep on believing”

Funeral philosophy

1. Do what you can with what you have.
2. Do what you have to do.
3. Enjoy every day . . .