



## Laughter at a Funeral

By Jeff Bedwell on May 17, 2021

### TODAY'S READING: Mark 5

Mark's gospel is a fast-moving account of some of the events that made up the earthly ministry of Jesus. In a few short verses, Jesus demonstrates His power and authority over nature including storms (4:35-41), demons (vv. 1-20), disease (vv. 21-34), and even death (vv. 35-43). When we face difficult situations, it is good to be reminded of the complete power and authority of Jesus.

Today, I invite you to enter a little more deeply into the experience of Jairus, the synagogue ruler. He came to Jesus crying out for help with his daughter who was dying. Imagine the desperation he felt at this moment, seeing his daughter dying and unable to do anything to help her. His desperation leads him to seek out Jesus in the hope that He can and will do something to save her. Feel the hope that springs into his heart as Jesus agrees to go with him!

As they hurry to Jairus' home, imagine the pressure he was feeling to get there in time. Let yourself identify with his frustration and even anger at the delay caused by Jesus talking with this woman in the crowd -- Yes, her needs were important, but my daughter is dying!

What went on in Jairus' heart and mind when the news came that it was too late and his daughter had died? As the words of Jesus interrupted his anguished thoughts, did he dare still trust in Jesus who said, "*Do not fear, only believe*"?

As they approach the house and hear the weeping and wailing, did Jairus' heart sink all over again as the reality of his daughter's death set in? Was it all a blur as he heard the words of Jesus and the unbelieving laughter of the people gathered around? Did he dare to believe or was he tempted to join in the seemingly legitimate doubts of the crowd?

What did he and his wife experience in that moment when their precious daughter got up and started walking around? How did they now view Jesus? What would they do with this gift of new life? What purpose could God have for their little girl?

How about you, today? Where do you find it difficult to believe in Jesus' power and authority? Where do you need to trust Him even when His timing seems off and the situation seems hopeless? Where do you need to reject the laughter and the opinions of the crowd and keep walking in trust and obedience to Jesus?

**PRAYER:** Father, today help me move beyond my fears and look to You as I trust in Your power, authority, wisdom and love.

**TOMORROW'S READING:** Mark 6

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