[18] While He spoke these things to them, behold, a ruler came and worshiped Him, saying, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay Your hand on her and she will live." [19] So Jesus arose and followed him, and so did His disciples. [20] And suddenly, a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years came from behind and touched the hem of His garment. [21] For she said to herself, "If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well." [22] But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, "Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that hour. [23] When Jesus came into the ruler's house, and saw the flute players and the noisy crowd wailing, [24] He said to them, "Make room, for the girl is not dead, but sleeping." And they ridiculed Him. [25] But when the crowd was put outside, He went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose. [26] And the report of this went out into all that land.

Text: Matthew 9:18-26 A 11-15-26 Isaiah 51:9-16 Colossians 1:9-14 Ps. 33 Resp. Ps.: 30
Hymns: 41, 537, 39, 54

OUR HEALING IN JESUS

Dear fellow believers in Christ,

As our text begins we're told that a man came up to Jesus. Mark informs us that the man's name was Jairus (Mk. 5:20). Mark says that Jairus was *"one of the rulers of the synagogue."* Most of the Jewish leaders hated Jesus. At best, they only pretended to respect Jesus. They asked Him questions they thought He couldn't answer, or would answer in such a way that they thought they could use to turn the people against Him. However, by the grace of God, Jairus wasn't like that.

Mark tells us that at first Jarius' daughter wasn't dead, but deathly sick. We're told that Jairus *"worshiped*" Jesus, humbly bowing down before Jesus, placing his hope in Jesus and sincerely honoring Him. Jesus had healed the centurion's servant and the nobleman's son in that area (Lk. 71-10; Jn. 4:46-54). So Jairus had good reason to hope that Jesus would heal his daughter.

Our text begins after Jarius' daughter had died. Jairus says to Jesus, *"My daughter has just died, but come and lay Your hand on her and she will live."* Jairus shows great faith in Jesus. Even though his daughter was dead, Jairus believed that Jesus could make her alive again. Jairus believed in Jesus not only as a great healer, but as having the power to raise the dead back to life!

As Jesus went on His way to raise Jairus' daughter, Mark tells us, *"a great multitude followed Him and thronged Him"* (Mk 5:24). The curious crowd slowed Jesus down. A woman came along who delayed Jesus even further. She had been subject to bleeding. We learn from Mark that she had spent all her money on physicians with the hope that they would heal her. But her condition had only gotten worse. She believed that if she just touched the hem of Jesus' robe, she would be cured. So she touched Jesus' robe, and He healed her immediately.

Thank the Lord that He has given us bodies that can heal. Thank the Lord for the healing He gives us through doctors, nurses, medicine, operations, physical therapy, and on and on. Don't

take these things for granted. Thank and praise God for them. Understand that ultimately our healing comes from the Lord. Do what can be done. Be wise and take care of yourself. At the same time, place your trust in the Lord for health and healing.

The crowd pressing in on Jesus, and Jesus stopping to heal the woman, took time. Think of how hard this was on Jairus. Jesus was testing Jairus' faith to make it stronger. The more we understand how much we depend on Jesus, the more we understand and are grateful for Jesus' help. As Paul says, *"Most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong."* (2 Cor. 12:9-10)

Mark tells us that it was at this point that Jairus learned that his daughter had died (Mk. 5:35). Jesus immediately tells Jairus, *"Do not be afraid, only believe"* (Mk. 5:36). Jesus tells Jairus not to be afraid, but, literally, to *"keep on believing."* Jesus gave Jairus hope. And so Jesus teaches us not to dwell on how impossible a situation may look to us, but to keep looking to Him, and keep trusting in Him.

> Never a want severe causeth my eye a tear
> But Thou dost whisper near, "Only believe."

We're told, *"Jesus came into the ruler's house, and saw the flute players and the noisy crowd wailing…."* One commentary explains, "At that time even the poorest man felt obligated to have a minimum of two flute players and one mourner at the death of his wife. Jairus was a prominent man, and so there would be many more professional mourners there. Matthew mentions the flute players. Luke speaks of those wailing and beating their breasts. It was the custom to have paid professionals, and we may be sure they staged their best performance for this prominent family."

Jesus tells the crowd, *"Make room, for the girl is not dead, but sleeping."* We're told that they *"ridiculed"* Jesus. The professional mourners had seen dead people before. They knew that the man's daughter was dead. So they made fun of Jesus for saying that she was only asleep. Jesus didn't want the noisy crowd and other distractions around for what He was about to do. So the crowd was put out of the house.

Mark tells us that Jesus had with Him Peter, James, and John and the girls' father and mother. Mark says that they went into the room where the girl's body had been placed. Mark says, *"Then [Jesus] took the child by the hand, and said to her, 'Talitha, cumi,' which is translated, 'Little girl, I say to you, arise.' Immediately the girl arose and walked, for she was twelve years of age. And they were overcome with great amazement"* – literally from the original, they were *"ecstatic with great ecstasy."* I guess so! If someone dear to us had just died, and Jesus raised her back to life again, healthy and well, we would be *"ecstatic with great ecstasy"* too!

That's astounding! One minute you're filled with profound sorrow, and the next minute your profound sorrow is turned into profound joy! We're told, *"And the report of this went out into all that land."* Is it any wonder that the people who had seen the dead girl now brought back to life told everyone they could about it?!

Jesus had said, *"The girl is not dead, but sleeping."* The girl was obviously dead. So why did Jesus say that she was *"sleeping"*? For one thing, as far as Jesus, God, is concerned, she may as well have been sleeping. Jesus would 'wake her up,' that is, Jesus would raise her back to life again. Jesus has the power over death itself. There's another very important lesson Jesus was teaching by saying that the dead girl was only *"sleeping."* For all who believe in Jesus, we need fear death no more than we need fear falling asleep. Humanly speaking, death for us is the end. There's nothing we can do by ourselves to help someone who has died. But the Bible speaks of death for a Christian as falling asleep (1 Thess. 4:13-18; etc.). By faith in Jesus, death isn't the end for us. After we die, Jesus will raise us back to life again. Jesus says, *"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die."* (Jn. 11:25-26)

That girl whom Jesus raised from the dead eventually died one day. Everyone dies, sooner or later. Every person whom Jesus healed eventually died. We're human, we're mortal, and so we die. But everyone who believes in Jesus, after we die, Jesus takes us to heaven!

Jesus says, *"Because I live, you will live also"* (Jn. 14:19). Jesus died for our sins on the cross and rose again. By faith in Jesus, our sins are forgiven and we're going to heaven! Because Jesus was able to raise Himself back to life after He died, after we die Jesus will raise us back to life again. When we die, Jesus immediately takes our soul to heaven. Our bodies are placed in the grave. On the Judgment Day Jesus will raise our bodies back to life, make them perfect, and reunite them with our perfect souls. Then in our perfect bodies and souls Jesus will take us to live with Him forever in heaven. We read in First Corinthians, chapter fifteen, *"Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ... We ... shall all be changed – in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: 'Death is swallowed up in victory.' O Death, where is your sting? O Grave, where is your victory? ... Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."* (1 Cor. 15:20, 51-55, 57)

Such is **OUR HEALING IN JESUS**, healing for our bodies, and, infinitely better, healing for our souls! Amen.