

Sunday 30th June 2024

Fifth Sunday after Trinity

"Don't be afraid; just believe."



Today's Gospel reading is Mark 5: 21-43 and is two stories in one! Two people healed by Jesus, lots of amazed people and plenty for us to think about and to learn about Jesus - but we are going to concentrate on the main story about Jairus, the synagogue leader, and his little girl. This is another story which encourages us to have more faith.

Jairus's daughter was very sick, and like all parents with a sick child, Jairus would have done anything to help her get well. As an official in the synagogue, he had heard about Jesus healing people and went to ask for his help. He must have been very worried about what Jesus might say, but Jesus reassured him that he had come to the right person - and he didn't hang about! He went with Jairus straightaway but then, frustratingly for Jairus, stopped to search for a woman in the crowd who had touched his cloak in order to receive healing. When the message came from Jairus's home to say that his daughter had died, Jairus must have felt despair. It was too late now for Jesus to help.... or was it?

Jesus didn't seem to pay any attention to what the messengers said, but turned to Jairus and said, "Don't be afraid, only believe" and they continued on their way to Jairus's house. They arrived to find a scene of desolation and confusion. Jesus cut through all the noise and wailing by telling the mourners that the child was only sleeping – and they laughed at him. Jairus must have felt confused and fearful.... or do you think he still believed, as Jesus had told him to, and felt hopeful?

Jesus made everyone apart from the girl's parents and his three disciples go outside - he could do without those who were mocking and disbelieving – he wanted those around him who truly believed in what he was doing. Jesus didn't use lots of words when he prayed over the little girl, but simply told her to get up! "Talitha, cum" "Little girl, get up".

We're told that she did get up - at once - and started walking around. Mark gives us these practical details in his writing and makes the scene come alive – just like the little girl! We are not told her name, but we are told that she was 12 years old and that Jesus, ever aware of people's needs, realised she must be hungry! When children have been poorly, then begin to feel better, the first thing they usually want is something to eat! Jesus knew this!

Jairus and his family must have been so relieved, happy, and overwhelmed with gratitude. They would often have thought of Jesus's words, "Don't be afraid, just believe." We can think often of those words too.

This story teaches us that, with God, all things are possible. Jairus's daughter was dead – the situation seemed hopeless – but Jesus said, "Don't be afraid, just believe". When we face what seems to be a hopeless situation, we need to remember those words of Jesus – "just believe". If we can trust and have faith, all things are possible!

🙏 A prayer for this week:

Heavenly Father, we are thankful for the love that you have for all your children. Help us, to remember that all things are possible if we only believe and trust in you. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.



Jesus Raises a Dead Girl

While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher anymore?" Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, "Don't be afraid; just believe." Mark 5:35-43 (NIV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



U	B	T	G	R	O	I	Q	P	J	M	X	E	S	N	Y	L	D	C	K	A	H	W	F	V	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- 18-21-1-4-22-3-13-5 _____
- 18-16-7-15-4 _____
- 22-13-21-17-13-18 _____
- 21-24-5-21-7-18 _____
- 2-13-17-7-13-25-13 _____
- 19-5-16-7-15-4 _____
- 21-14-17-13-13-9 _____
- 17-21-1-4-22-13-18 _____
- 14-3-6-6-18 _____
- 23-21-17-20-13-18 _____

CRYING	BELIEVE	DAUGHTER	HEALED	ASLEEP
AFRAID	STOOD	LAUGHED	WALKED	DYING

Name: _____

Date: _____

Jairus' Daughter

I P Q I D F E W J A L W V N N N K
T H D A A J M L A H E C R Y I N G
J N B Z E U G N I Y D S B Q G P V
V S Q K D N L D Z H L E D C Q K Q
G S Y N A G O G U E K L T G Y I C
O N P P A C H L S P D P N B E Y D
D D W O R C Y L I C M I W H L V G
F A I T H S W B C D J C M D B E C
P T D O O F U K K L B S O C E X M
L Y H W A I Q B E D D I U L L O U
B M G Q S M H V C N Q D R C I D A
I M M E D I A T L E Y V N L E E N
K T M J U J E S U S X M E J V E R
J C Q C H R O M Z B P S R K E Q E
J A I R U S E D V U Y Q S C C H P
J P S J O I G V A R I S E S R V A
F O O D P E Q A P O Z E R Q M I C

Jairus	Crying	Bed	Crowd
Synagogue	Food	Dead	Faith
Immediatley	Dying	Sick	Believe
Capernaum	Jesus	Arise	Disciples
food	Mourners		

