

Stage IV. The Great Galilean Ministry

G . The Second Tour of Galilee

12. Jesus Raises a Young Woman From the Dead (Miracle #15)

The DAILY JESUS NEWS #098

Base Text: MK 5.21-24, 35-43 (Parallel Texts: MT 9.18-19, 23-26; LK 8.40-42, 49-56)

21 ^MWhen Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a huge crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake.

22 Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. ^LFor he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying. 23 ^MHe pleaded earnestly with him, "My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she can be made whole, and really live."

24 So Jesus went with him ^{MT}and so did his disciples.

35 ^MWhile Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why make any further trouble for the teacher?"

36 Having heard what they said, Jesus refused to acknowledge it and told him, "*Stop being afraid; I command you to just keep on believing, ^Land she will be made whole.*"

37 ^MHe did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. 38 When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, ^{MT}and the flute players ^Mwith people crying and wailing loudly. 39 He went in and said to them,

"Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead, but is sleeping."

40 But they were laughing at him.

After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was.

41 And having taken her by the hand, he said to her, "*Talitha koum!*" (which means "*Little girl...^LChild, ^MI command you, rise up!*").

42 ^LHer spirit returned, ^Mand immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around the house (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. 43 He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat. ^{MT}And the report about this went out into all the region.

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = ^{MT}, Mark = ^M, Luke = ^L, John = ^J, Acts = ^A. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *the words of Jesus are italicized in red*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	In a Town by the Sea of Galilee, Probably Capernaum
Timeline	May--Oct. (Months 16 to 21)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage IV: The Great Galilean Ministry
	G. The 2 nd Tour of Galilee

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Title	12. Jesus Raises a Young Woman From the Dead (Miracle #15)
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COMMENT:

After being run out of the town of Gerasa in the previous reading, Jesus crossed the Sea of Galilee again by boat. Today's reading occurred in an unidentified town by the Sea, but is highly likely that it was Capernaum.

The third in this powerful series of six miracles was another instance of Jesus raising a person from the dead. A few months earlier Jesus had raised a young man--an only son-- from the dead with just a word (DAILY JESUS NEWS #82, LK 7.11-19). In today's reading he raised an only daughter, a young woman of about twelve. The twin occurrence of an only son and daughter being raised from death by Jesus is not a coincidence, for it prepares us for Jesus' own resurrection as the unique, only begotten Son of God.

This miracle (#15) and the one that follows it (#16) have three things in common. First, they occurred at the same time. Jesus healed the woman with a 12 year hemorrhage as he was walking to Jairus' house to raise his daughter from the dead. Second, both of these miracles show us Jesus' power over death. The woman with the unstoppable hemorrhage was experiencing a living death that no physician could heal. Jairus' daughter was actually dead, beyond the touch of any human physician. We see the power of Jesus here as "the Great Physician" and Lord over death. Finally, both miracles emphasize the role and importance of faith in following Jesus.

Jesus had great compassion on these parents who lost an only child. He spared them the agony of a lifetime of dealing with the early passing of their child. As a parent, living with the death of a child is a special source of deep sorrow that never ends in this life. This miracle serves then as a reminder of our Father's own love for us, because he did NOT spare his only son from death, so that we might have eternal life. What marvelous grace we can see in this.

Jesus used this miracle to emphasize faith. He commanded Jairus, the father, to keep on believing in him after the news came that his daughter had died. Jesus had already agreed to make this young woman whole. Having made a promise, the mere death of the girl was nothing to fear! Jesus reminded Jairus that his daughter would surely be made whole. Jesus demonstrated truly amazing faith in the way he performed this miracle. Let's trace this.

First, when the news of the death of the girl came, Jesus refused to acknowledge it. He believed in the coming resurrection of the girl, not the apparent circumstances. When they arrived at the house, the week long period of mourning had already begun. People were wailing, playing funeral music on flutes, and sitting on the floor dressed in mourning clothes with dirt and ashes on their heads. When Jesus saw this he told them to stop, because the girl was merely "sleeping." What did he mean by this?

"Sleep" is used in the New Testament to describe the state of people who have died physically, but whose spirit is alive in the presence of God awaiting the resurrection. "Dead" describes those who have physically died, and are destined to spend eternity separated from God's presence in hell. By describing the girl as "asleep," Jesus was saying she was going to be resurrected, but it would be sooner, rather than later than any of them believed! HE knew what he was about to do.

The crowd of mourners actually laughed out loud when Jesus said this. They kept on laughing at him. What a blow to faith this would be for most of us. We announce a coming miracle, and our friends and family burst out in laughter, mocking us with their disbelief. That did not deter or weaken Jesus' faith in any way, for it was not based on the opinions of those around him. Jesus' faith was based on what his Father had already revealed to him about the girl's resurrection.

Jesus took her parents and Peter, James, and John into the room where the precious daughter lay, and commanded her to rise up from the dead. She did. She was restored to vibrant wholeness, as evidenced by her energy in walking around the house, and her restored voracious appetite. Jesus raised her with a word, just like the young man in Nain. It is this same power that assures all of us, who believe in Jesus, of eternal life with him in the presence of the Trinity.

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We noted that Jesus chose to take just three men with him into the room where the young woman lay dead. This is the first instance of Jesus pulling these three aside as a group. It will become a pattern. Jesus was increasing his focus on discipleship training during the 2nd Tour. He had already begun to spend more time in private with his disciples to explain the meaning of his parables to them. Now he added special time with Peter, James and John to the mix.

Among the twelve apostles, the Lord chose to spend extra time in training with his core of three future leaders. Peter and John became the key leaders of the Church in Jerusalem, and ended up creating the content for two of the four gospels (Mark and John), five epistles (I and II Peter; I, II, and III John), and the book of Revelation. James became the first martyr of the Church age. Jesus knew what he was doing when he concentrated his time with these three men who founded the early church, died for their faith (James and Peter) and wrote roughly 40% of the content of the New Testament.

In this sequence of three miracles so far, the authority and power of God in Jesus are on glorious display. *"Who IS this, that the wind and the waves, legions of demons, and even death instantly obey his word?"*

He is JESUS...the LORD who Saves! He commands us to *"keep on believing"* in what he has promised us.

APPLICATION:

Faith is believing that God has the power to do what he has said, regardless of anything in creation which seems to thwart it, including nature (Miracle #13), Satan and his demons (Miracle #14), or death (Miracle #15). Either God is truly sovereign over his creation, or not. Since he is, he alone has the power to make everything he says actually happen.

Just as surely as he spoke the entire universe into being out of nothing, he will accomplish everything else he has spoken. Jesus demonstrated that kind of faith so magnificently in scenes like these.

What has God spoken in his Word that seems to be contradicted by your present circumstances? Either God is a liar, or those circumstances will ultimately come into conformity with what God has said. It can be no other way.

How can you thank and praise God more for the way He is going to work in your life to accomplish what his Word has already declared to you?

In what way is God calling you to stand firm by faith on what He has spoken?