

**Hymns: 409 Trusting in Jesus 435 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling**

**Read Mark 5:21 - 24, 35 - 43.**

**We take an interest in Jairus for we want to learn how to pray.** Prayer is calling on the Lord for our needs and the church's needs and seeing our prayers answered.

This account of Jairus' daughter being sick, then dying and her resurrection to life again was all mediated through the prayer of a loving father - Jairus.

We learn from this incident that love is not enough to bring children back from sickness and death. Love is not enough to be a parent. In spite of all that Jairus was by position, character and fatherhood needed the Lord Jesus.

Surely this incident is recorded to teach us of our personal need of the Lord's power and presence in our lives.

We live in a world where sin ravages and destroys the body. Death and decay are all around us. Death stalks with unrelenting visitations so that we will all face this enemy sooner than we may think. Let's face it, since sin came into the world there is no normality. This is a world of strife, struggle, tears and anguish. This world is not our home.

So, we need the Lord, who is the resurrection and the life and we need to learn how to pray through with our problems and burdens. This study of Jairus as a model for prayer will teach us many about prayer.

## **1. THE POSITION THAT JAIRUS ACQUIRED**

- A ruler of the synagogue, v21 - One of many. See the plurality of elders in the life of the synagogue. The N.T. church is modelled after synagogue worship.

- He was a **devout** Jew.

- He was a **reader** and teacher of the O.T scriptures.

- He was a **shepherd** of souls. Thus he was a caring man.

- He was a **father** with a sick girl. He was burdened with the affliction of his daughter. We are not told what her sickness was. He probably didn't know.

Does anyone know all the workings of the human body? What years of research, study, methods and talent the complexities of the body have exhausted. There is only one great Physician, who so healed and even brought the dead back to life.

## 2. THE PRAYER THAT JAIRUS OFFERED.

- He was **drawn** to Jesus v22 "cometh" Many providences were behind that statement!
- He was **driven** to Jesus for the need of His daughter. She was 12 years old and "at point of death" v23 We all need to be driven to prayer. We all need to be awakened to eternal realities and the battles we face in this world.
- He was **desperate** in prayer to Jesus. v23 "besought him greatly"
- He was **definite** about the answer to his prayer to the Lord. v23c

## 3. THE PRAYER OF JAIRUS ANSWERED

At first he was **delighted**. "Jesus went with him..." v24

- Answer **Delayed** - The woman in the crowd who stole a blessing v 25 - 34. A divine delay for the glory of God - Like the scenario that developed in the sickness and death of Lazarus (John 11).

So, the Lord's delays are not nays. Everything will fit into the Lord's kingdom work. Instant answers are not always God's way with us.

- Answer **linked** to faith v36 "be not afraid, only believe."
- Answer **challenged** by the ungodly crowd. v40

Professional weepers were hired to attend and weep at funerals.

Instant scorn from weeping - a sham

They were put out. The Lord cannot have sham workers in the midst of His work of mercy.

- Answer **confirmed** by resurrection of the girl.
- Answer **confirmed** with food. There was no doubt about the new life that was in this girl.

**Conc:** So let us learn to persevere in prayer. The Lord is with us. That is our gospel hope as Christians. He will have us to call on Him with earnest appeals. We come to fall at the Lord's feet in prayer.

Our needs are as **urgent** for the sick and for the perishing souls who are dead in sins.

We need to pray for **spiritual resurrections** that will turn scorn into "astonishment." I don't know how they would keep this silent. The girl would need to go into hiding.

You can't hide the evidence of the gospel.

**Shall we be any less astonished on the resurrection day?** Rather, the whole world will be filled with this ecstasy. Then sorrow will be turned to joy, unspeakable. Then all the world will be turned upside down. It will be a great day to be a Christian.

**Let us pray on for our loved ones who are dead in sin.** Pray for their spiritual resurrection.

What hope we have in the same Jesus, who as shown in this one chapter, has power over devils (Legion), disease (Woman in crowd) and death Jairus' Daughter.

**Each of these fell at Jesus feet.** - Legion sitting at Jesus feet and in his right mind. Jairus in pleading prayer. The woman who felt the power of the Lord at work in her.