

The title for this mornings message is; **“Where Is Your Dignity”**

Jesus said; ***“Don't be afraid; just believe.”***

Grace and peace to you from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, amen.

I don't know about you, but I would think the disciples would have by now had enough of the sea of Galilee, at least for a while.

I mean, Last week, we heard about the horrible storm they were caught in, as they were crossing over to the other side of the sea, to get some rest.

We heard how Jesus had to calm the storm, because the disciples were terrified of the storm, and didn't know what to do.

They finally landed on the southeast shore of the sea where Jesus cast out a demon by the name “Legion”, which means “many.”

Now what's important here is that Jesus cast out the demons, right into a herd of pigs, causing them to run wild and off a cliff, to their death.

However, the towns people were very upset with Jesus for killing their pigs, so they asked Jesus to leave.

Which brings us to today's text. Here, Jesus and the disciples are once again preparing to cross over the sea of Galilee.

However this time to the west side of the sea, probably at Capernaum, where Jesus again ends up being run out of the town, so to speak.

Mark tells us; ***When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake.***

Here again, word spread like wildfire, that Jesus of Nazareth had arrived, and was teaching, and healing the sick.

Were also told about one man in particular, who asked Jesus for a healing. Not for himself but for his dying daughter.

Now, its clear something was different about this man. No one, expected this man, to even speak to Jesus.

He was a man of high status within the community, and just being seen with Jesus could coast him his high status.

This was a man who belonged to a Jewish group called, ruler's of the Synagogue. Not priest, but laymen.

He was also the president of the board of elders, responsible for the management of the synagogue.

He was in charge of allocating the duties to all those serving in the synagogue, and seeing that those duties are carried out.

He was an important, and well respected man in the community, but something out of the ordinary happens to him, when his daughter falls ill.

He asked this man from Nazareth, Jesus, to heal his daughter. He had to put aside all his prejudices, such as thinking of Jesus as a nut.

Jesus was thought to be a dangerous heretic, and anyone who valued his orthodoxy would do well to avoid Him.

Yet this man realized that Jesus was the only one who could save his daughter. Did he become a believer in Jesus??

Look this man coming to Jesus for help was so unusual, Mark thought it necessary to give us his name, Jairus.

Now, when Jairus heard that Jesus was teaching, and healing people, he immediately left his home in search of Jesus.

And at the very moment Jairus saw Jesus, he threw himself at the feet of Jesus, just as one would do, in the presents of a king.

Mark said: ***He fell at his feet and pleaded earnestly with him, "My little daughter is dying.***

Now, he wasn't the first man who seemed to have lost his dignity, in order to save his life and soul.

Of course I'm thinking about Na-a-man. Remember, he came to Elisha to be healed of his leprosy.

And Elisha told him to wash himself seven times and when he did, he put aside his dignity and was healed.

The same was true for Jairus, instead of accepting his daughters fate, he put aside his dignity, demonstrating his faith in Jesus to heal his daughter.

Look, putting aside ones dignity requires a conscious effort of humiliation, as it was for Jairus. Surly it couldn't have been easy for him to ask Jesus for help.

Now, I'm going to do something that we shouldn't do with scripture. I'm going to speculate.

It seems to me, that when Jairus did this, he also had to put aside his friends, and maybe even his job.

Certainly his friends, and those in the synagogue, objected strongly, to him asking Jesus for help.

And besides, why would he leave his daughter's side, at a time where she may die.

Well, maybe he took the chance of leaving his daughters side, because, no one else would go to Jesus for him, fearing they would be indebted to Him.

Look, no one likes to be indebted to anyone right? And isn't it true, that most of us would rather run our own lives, not answering to anyone else?

Yet, the very first step of the Christian life, is to become aware that we cannot be anything, other than, indebted to God.

Jairus asked Jesus; ***Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.*** So Jesus went with him.

Now on His way to save Jairus' daughter, Jesus' cloak was touched by a woman cursed with bleeding for twelve years.

When she saw Jesus walking by, she ran up to him fell to her knees, reached out and touched the bottom of Jesus' robe.

Her faith was stronger than that of Jairus. She believed if only she just touched Jesus' rob, she would be healed. Jairus could have simply believed if Jesus only would say the word his daughter would be saved.

Now Jesus said to the woman: ***"Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."***

Look, this is the same woman who Jesus is speaking to, when he was interrupted by men from Jairus's home.

Mark said; ***"While Jesus was still speaking, some men came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue ruler."***

They said to Jairus: ***"Your daughter is dead,"... "Why bother the teacher any more?"***

Well this changes everything, doesn't it? No longer is it a matter of healing. Now it's a matter of bringing back to life the little girl from the dead.

Jesus simply ignores what the men said, but Jairus wasn't able to, so Jesus said to him: ***"Don't be afraid; just believe."***

Jesus was saying here, your child is going to be okay, just keep your faith in what I say. Jairus heard Jesus' words and believed.

We know this, because he did nothing to stop Jesus from going on, to see his daughter. He believed that Jesus would still heal his daughter.

Jesus then went into the home and said to the mourners: ***"Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep."***

They laughed at Jesus for saying this, they knew the little girl was dead. They saw for themselves that she was dead.

Because they laughed, Jesus decided they were not worthy to witness such a great miracle, so he had them removed from the home.

Jesus then: ***took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was.***

Out of all the people who followed Jesus to Jairus' home, and of all those in his family, friends, and even the mourners.

Only Peter, James, and John, and the father and the mother of the girl, were found to be worthy to witness this miracle. Only five people.

Its clear, they were the only one's there at the time, who had faith in Jesus and in His power to heal.

Now, once they were in the girl's room, Jesus stood by her side and took her by the hand, and said: ***"Little girl, I say to you, get up!"***

Now, Mark tells us that after Jesus spoke these words: ***Immediately the girl stood up and walked around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished.***

My friends, we need to look at this miracle and take its meaning to heart. Because unless we live until judgment day, we too will die.

You see, our death too, will be, but sleep. And when we awaken, we shall live with Jesus forever, in a place already prepared for us in heaven.

Its through miracle's like this one, that proclaims Jesus' deity, and at the same time, assures us, of our salvation, and eternal life.

Amen.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all. Amen.