

Jesus—Power Over Death
Mark 5:35-43
March 10, 2013

Introduction

Death is the last enemy of mankind. It strikes fear in people's hearts because they do not understand death. They are perplexed by it. In fact, scientist do not understand why our body dies from researching the body. We have the truth from Scripture:

Hebrews 9:27 *Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment.*

Scripture tells us that people fear dying—it is a human response. It is an experience all people share.

Hebrews 2:15 *and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.*

Psalms 55:4-5 *My heart is in anguish within me; the terrors of death assail me. ⁵Fear and trembling have beset me; horror has overwhelmed me.*

Because of this fear, people often ask: Has anyone conquered death? And can that person's success be given to me? Scripture gives us this answer.

John 14:19b *Because I live, you also will live.*

Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, conquered death, and in Him, we have life. It is fitting that we are talking about death and resurrection so close to Easter. We live because He lives. He has triumphed over death in His resurrection.

In Christ Jesus there is life. This is one of the major themes in the Gospel of John.

John 1:4a *In Him was life.*

John 10:10b *I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

John 11:25-26 *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; ²⁶and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"*

John 14:6a *Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life."*

Even while He was on earth, Jesus had power over death.

John 2:19 *Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."*

Mark reiterates this theme in his presentation of Jesus the Son of God, so that we may believe in Him. He starts with Jesus' power over nature—the calming of the winds and the waves (**4:35-41**). He then shows Jesus' power over the spiritual world by casting out thousands of demons from one man (**5:1-20**). Last week we looked at how He has power over diseases—even incurables ones—by healing the woman who touched His garments (**5:25-34**).

Last week, we learned that before the woman was involved, Jesus was going with Jarius, a ruler of the synagogue (**5:21**). He came to Jesus and pleaded with Him to heal his only daughter who was dying. This man had faith in Jesus' ability and in Jesus. It is interesting that Jarius came to Jesus

when the whole religious establishment was antagonistic toward Jesus. Jairus grabbed to the only hope he had—that Jesus Christ could heal his daughter, and believed in Him. Jesus goes with him, and on the way, He was interrupted by a woman who had been bleeding for twelve years. We pick up right after Jesus had healed the woman.

35 *While Jesus was still speaking, some men came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue ruler. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the Teacher anymore?"*

- Delay proves deadly
- We do not know how much time has passed (All the gospels condense the story without any sense of time)
 - There is a sense that Jesus was talking to the woman and perhaps to the crowd for an extended period of time. I do not believe that one sentence is all He said to the woman (in **verse 34**). The main reason I believe that much time has passed is that when they arrive, there is a funeral. It takes time to arrange such gatherings.
- Daughter is now dead—nothing to do
 - Men did not have faith that Jesus could raise people from the dead (there is not a record that He has done that before)
 - This is very similar to what Martha says about Lazarus being dead for some days

John 11:21 *"Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if You had been here, my brother would not have died."*

- In other words, Martha is saying "It is too late."

36 *Ignoring what they said, Jesus told the synagogue ruler, "Don't be afraid; just believe."*

- Ignoring what they said—I love this because this situation shows that Jesus is calm and in perfect accord in the will of His Father
- Just believe—keep on believing (prove that Jairus has faith)
- **Luke** adds that she will be made well (**8:50**)
- Do not be afraid—I'm the Victor over life and death

1 Corinthians 15:55-57 *"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"⁵⁶The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Note: Even though we see this in the light of the resurrection of Christ, this verse still holds true here because Jesus did indeed have the power over life and death.

37 *He did not let anyone follow Him except Peter, James and John the brother of James.*

- First time in the gospel that the Three are together

38 *When they came to the home of the synagogue ruler, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly.*

- Commotion—funeral / memorial service is taking place
- Funeral is in full swing
 - Mourners and wailers
 - **Matthew** says that there are flutists in the group and it was a noisy disorder (**9:23**)

- The Jews funeral back then is nothing like how we do ours (we are very quiet and sedate)
 - They cried out loud in shrieks and wails
 - While they did that they tore their clothing

Side note: There are 39 regulations in the Talmud about how to tear clothes during the funeral! One such example—if family member that has died, then tear clothes in front of heart, but if friends or associates, tear clothes in the stomach or arm areas.

- Professional wailers—they encourage everyone to wail and shriek—they do this to get everyone to get in the “spirit” of things
- Professional flutist—to accompany the wailing
- Very insincere and artificial

39 *He went in and said to them, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep."*

- Why is everyone crying and wailing
- In Matthew, Jesus is more forceful—He tells them to get out, to get away. In other words, the funeral is over
- The child is not dead, but sleeping
 - Mark (and other gospel writers) does not mean that she was in a coma
 - Jesus simply viewed death of the believers differently from the world
 - Death for believers is like being asleep—it is temporary
 - The Writers and Apostles used the same language

Acts 7:60 *Then he [Stephen] fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.*

1 Corinthians 15:6 *After that, He appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.*

1 Thessalonians 4:15-16 *According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.*

40 *But they laughed 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.*

- They laughed at Him—mocking scorn (derision) (**Luke 8:53**)
 - They thought Jesus as simple—the girl was dead
- He puts them out (after they did not obey His command the first time)
 - Jesus was not gentle with them--forcefully

41 *He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha koum!" (which means, "Little girl, I say to you, get up!").*

Note: Jesus could have healed Jarius' daughter from afar, but He didn't. He came to seek and save the lost and to do that He demonstrates His love and compassion by being with the people that needed Him

- He took her by the hand—tenderness (the greatest show of love is through touch and action)
- *Talitha*—little lamb—term of endearment
- Jesus spoke and the girl lives! What power in Jesus Christ!

42 *Immediately the girl stood up and walked around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished.*

- Her resurrection was immediate
- **Luke** says that her spirit returned to her (**8:56**)
- No therapy or rehab for the girl—she walked around continuously—like a normal 12 year old girl, full of energy and life
- They were completely astonished
 - They could not explain what they have seen—nothing like this in their experience
 - Even Peter, James, and John were astonished!
 - They witnessed Jesus Christ as the Lord of life and death

43 *He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.*

- Call for silence—why?
 - He is the Messiah, but His time is not yet
 - He does not want people to take matters in their own hands and make Him king

John 6:15 *Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make Him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by Himself.*

- Feed the girl—compassion again from Jesus
 - Father and mother overwhelmed with emotions
 - Her being sick, probably did not eat much in days

Conclusion

We stand in the glorious light of the resurrection, which they have not yet experienced. We see in Christ Jesus His victory over death. As Jesus Himself said,

Revelation 1:18 *I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.*

What comfort! What peace! This is the gospel we tell people—believe in Jesus, the Living One, repent from your sins and receive the gift of everlasting life.