

21 When Jesus had again crossed over in the boat to the other side, a large crowd gathered around him near the sea. **22** Then one of the synagogue rulers, named Jairus, came. When he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet **23** and repeatedly pleaded with him, “My little daughter is near death. Please come and place your hands on her so that she may be healed and live.” **24** Jesus went with him, and a large crowd was following him. **35** While he was still speaking, people from the synagogue ruler’s house arrived, saying, “Your daughter is dead. Why bother the Teacher anymore?” **36** But when Jesus heard this report, he told the synagogue ruler, “Do not be afraid. Only believe.” **37** He did not allow anyone to follow him except Peter, James, and John the brother of James. **38** They went into the house of the synagogue ruler, and Jesus saw a commotion with people weeping and wailing loudly. **39** When he entered, he said to them, “Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping.” **40** They laughed at him. But after he put everyone out, he took the father of the child, her mother, and those who were with him and went in where the child was. **41** Grasping the hand of the child, he said to **41** Grasping the hand of the child, he said to her, “Talitha, koum!” (When translated, that means, “Little girl, I say to you, arise!”) **42** Immediately the little girl stood up and began to walk around. (She was twelve years old.) They were completely and utterly amazed. **43** Then he gave them strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and he told them to give her something to eat.

“Surely I am with you always until the end of the age.” This is what Jesus promised before ascending to heaven. It is a very comforting promise. Yet, we humans do not always apply its significance to our lives as we should. If we did, we find less fear in our lives, less crying. –Note Jesus says, “I AM with you, not I was, not I will be. Then he also adds, “ALWAYS”, I am **always** with you. He is with us every second of every minute of every day we live. Then he adds the word SURELY to say to you and to me, what I say is most certainly true. Jesus, INDEED, is with us always, in life and with us as we die. ---Now, so that we might better apply this truth to our lives every

day, let us study our text. As we do, let us learn this lesson, **Don't Fear, Don't Cry, For Our Lord Jesus Is Here.** Jesus is our teacher as we walk with him and Jairus today.

What's the first thing our text teaches us? When Jairus daughter became ill, Jairus looked for Jesus ²² **“One of the synagogue rulers, named Jairus, came. When he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet and repeatedly pleaded with him.”** What did he ask Jesus to do, repeatedly? My daughter is ill, come and heal her. Again and again the Bible teaches us to pray. And we certainly need divine help. In fact, we need it every day. We ought to pray constantly, - first giving thanks to God. We frequently aren't even aware of the help that he provides us. If we did, we would pray repeatedly. We also have many circumstances where only our loving Lord can help us. Sickness is one of those. And when children are ill, we especially want the Lord to cure and heal them. ---But let us daily remember to pray so our loved ones, family and friends, and ourselves; we can and should ask that He protect us from all evil of body and soul.

Next let us see that the Lord answers our prayers. Our text says, **“Jesus went with him.”** Four little words, Jesus went with him; yet these words give us great joy and hope. They tell us Jesus answers prayers, OUR prayers too! These words say, Our Lord cares about us! We **MUST** remember this at all times. --- Why? ---Because at times, the answers to our prayers are not immediately given. [Though our text does not show this, Jesus was interrupted on his way to Jairus's house. A woman in the crowd, who was sick for a long time, reached out and touched Jesus clothes. Jesus stopped to find her and talk to her.] Jairus, if he is like some of us, probably got a bit antsy over this. He needed Jesus to get to his daughter now. Finally, Jesus continued on with Jairus. But soon came the dreaded words, **“Your daughter is dead”**. Jairus' must have felt devastated. His daughter was dead. Now, reason to hope was gone. The messengers thought that. But Jesus responded quickly saying, **“Don't be afraid. Only believe.”** With those words Jesus offers hope. Human reason is not supreme. God's Word trumps human reason. With Jesus there is always **HOPE**. How awesome it must have been to be there at that moment! Jesus, the almighty Son of God, says, Don't fear. Just trust me and what I say. ---Isn't Jesus saying the same thing to us right now. Through this text Jesus is speaking to us also. Through the Word of

God, we hear exactly what Jairus heard. We are not to fear, but believe Jesus is with us and is in control over everything. Furthermore, let us remember we are to **patiently** BELIEVE as we await the Lord's answer to our prayers. That's what Jairus still had to do.

Don't fear, just believe is especially applicable to our sins and the Lord's forgiveness. Between the devil and our consciences, we **fear** that this sin or that sin we committed just can't be forgiven. Jesus teaches us that isn't true. God has forgiven us all our sins. "God was in Christ, reconciling the WORLD unto himself, NOT COUNTING their sins against them. Jesus said, I have come into the world to save the world, not condemn it. You and I have the total complete forgiveness of every sin. Jesus told us he accomplished this when he said, "It is finished." Don't fear, just BELIEVE! ---We also are to put our fear away in other matters also. Not feeling well, will there be a dreaded diagnosis? My company is laying people off. Will that happen to me? If there is a recession, will it affect my retirement assets? If my spouse dies, how will I get along? Yes, we know how hard it is not to fear. In fact, with us imperfect human beings, fear is what seems to come naturally. Yet Jesus is right. We should not fear. You and I and all believers are the very children of God. Doesn't our Father always know exactly where we are? Doesn't he know how we are doing? And since he is holy, doesn't he always do what is best for us? Pray God that he not only overcomes your fears. Ask him to strengthen your faith so that you do not fear.

Now our text takes us to Jairus' house. People are weeping and crying, the little girl is dead. What sadness clouds the whole place. But Jesus looks to them and says, "**Stop Crying**"! The little girl is asleep, not dead. Some of the people laughed. Oh, yes, from a human's viewpoint she was truly dead. But to the almighty Jesus a human's death is just a sleep. And he is right. His resurrection destroyed death. The power of God is greater than the consequence of sin. "**The wages of sin is death, but the GIFT of God is eternal life.** Thus, He, because of his love for us fallen human beings, has turned death into a sleep. He taught this right here in Jairus' house. Taking the girl's hand he raised her up. He presented to her parents alive. Jairus' prayer was answered perfectly, better than he could have hoped for.

Jesus' resurrection has also made our death a sleep. Also remember, death is a sleep for our bodies, but not our souls. Just as Jesus presented the little girl

alive, so Jesus presents our live souls to his Father when we die. As Jesus said, anyone who believes in him will never die. So, the day you die your will be with Jesus in paradise.

And we survivors should not fear nor cry. We need not ask what am I going to do now? Isn't the Lord with us? Doesn't he know the very thoughts in our hearts and minds? Doesn't he have plans for us? Your still on this earth for a reason. It is to serve the Lord. You are going to be important to his plans in some way. And you may not even always realize what he is having you do. The Lord says, just trust in me. That's the perfect advice for each and every one of us each day of our lives. Amen