

## **MATTHEW 9:23-26 – A GIRL RESTORED TO LIFE!**

10/17/15 Sat Morn Prayer – [ptwente@gmail.com](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com)

(PREVIOUS STUDY) - *Mat 9:18-19 While He spoke these things to them, behold, a ruler came and worshiped Him, saying, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay Your hand on her and she will live." [19] So Jesus arose and followed him, and so did His disciples. (Then the interruption of the woman with the issue of blood.)*

(TODAY'S STUDY) - *Mat 9:23-26 When Jesus came into the ruler's house, and saw the flute players and the noisy crowd wailing, [24] He said to them, "Make room, for the girl is not dead, but sleeping." And they ridiculed Him. [25] But when the crowd was put outside, He went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose. [26] And the report of this went out into all that land. (also given in Mark 5:35-43 & Luke 8:49-56)*

**Mat 9:23 When Jesus came into the ruler's house, and saw the flute players and the noisy crowd wailing,**

- Jesus permitted only three of his disciples, Peter, James, and John the brother of James, and the father and mother of the damsel, to go in with him where the corpse lay, Mar 5:37-40
- It was **important that there should be “witnesses” of the miracle**, and he chose a sufficient number. “Five” witnesses were enough to establish the fact. The witnesses were impartial. The fact that she was dead was established beyond a doubt. Of this the mourners, the parents, the messengers, the people, were satisfied. If she was presented to the people “alive,” the proof of the miracle was complete. The presence of more than the “five” witnesses would have made the scene tumultuous, and have been less satisfactory evidence of the fact of the restoration of the child. Five sober witnesses are always better than the confused voices of a rabble.
- ***The flute players and the noisy crowd:*** These were probably paid mourners, who in the custom of the day offered an ostentatious display of mourning for a price, and not out of sincere sorrow. They were most likely flute players. They could make such a wailing noise with the flutes that the Roman government limited them to ten. The people of the East used to bewail the dead by cutting the flesh, tearing their hair, their garments (39 rules, no sewing for 2 weeks; then loosely sewing and after 1 month, complete sewing) and crying bitterly. See Jer 9:17; Jer 16:6-7; Eze 24:17.
- The parents, who were immediately touched with the affliction, were silent, while *the people and flute players*, whose lamentations were forced, made such a noise. Notice that this would have the effect of **showing the people that the girl was really dead**.

**[24] He said to them, "Make room, for the girl is not dead, but sleeping." And they ridiculed Him.**

- **The girl is not dead, but sleeping** - Every possible evidence of her death had been given, and He acted on that Himself, and conveyed to the people the idea that He raised her “from the dead.” He meant to speak in opposition to their opinions. It is not unlikely that Jairus and the people favored the opinions of the Sadducees, and that “they” understood by her being dead that she had “ceased to be,” and that she would never be raised up again. In opposition to this, the Savior used the expression “she is not dead, but sleeping;” affirming mildly both that the “body” was dead, and “implying” that “her spirit” still lived, and that she would be raised up again.
- **And they ridiculed Him** - Derided Him; ridiculed Him. Now could it be **thought that such a comfortable word** as this, from the mouth of our Lord Jesus, should be ridiculed as it was? *They ridiculed Him*. These people lived in Capernaum, knew Christ's character, that He never spoke a rash or foolish word; they knew how many mighty works He had done; so that if they did not understand what He meant by this, they might at least have been silent in expectation of the issue.
- The words and works of Christ **which cannot be understood, are not to be despised**. We must adore the mystery of divine sayings, **even when they seem to contradict what we ourselves think**. Yet even this tended to the confirmation of the miracle: for it seems she was so apparently dead, that it was thought a very ridiculous thing to say otherwise.

**[25] But when the crowd was put outside, He went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose.**

- Jesus endured the scorn from the crowd and raised the girl to life. **He certainly would not let the criticism or mocking of the crowd keep Him from doing God's will.**
- **He went in** - With the father, and mother, and three disciples, Mar 5:37-40. There could be no deception here. “Parents” could not be imposed on in such a case, nor could such a multitude be deceived. The power of Jesus was undoubtedly shown to be sufficient to raise the dead.
- **Took her by the hand** - As it were to awake her, and to help her up, defining His own metaphor of her being asleep.

- The high priest, that typified Christ, was **not to come near the dead.** (Lev 21:10-11) *'He who is the high priest among his brethren, on whose head the anointing oil was poured and who is consecrated to wear the garments, shall not uncover his head nor tear his clothes; [11] nor shall he go near any dead body, nor defile himself for his father or his mother;*
- But Christ *touched the dead!* The Levitical priesthood leaves the dead in their uncleanness, and therefore keeps at a distance from them, because it cannot remedy them;
- But Christ, having power to raise the dead, is above the infection, and therefore is not shy of touching them. He *took her by the hand, and the maid arose.* **So easily, so effectually was the miracle wrought;** not by prayer, as Elijah did (1Ki 17:21), and Elisha (2Ki 4:33), but by a touch. They did it as servants, he as a Son, as a God, *to whom belong the issues from death.* Jesus Christ is the Lord of souls, He commands them back and forth as He pleases. Dead souls are not raised to spiritual life, **unless Christ take them by the hand:** it is done in the *day of His power.* **He helps us up, or we lie still.**
- **The girl arose** - She returned to life. Jesus didn't raise every dead child He encountered, but Jesus did so here in a simple act of mercy and compassion to the grieving father. In addition, Jesus must have hated death and its cause, and **enjoyed the opportunity to hand death a small defeat before He would defeat it altogether at the cross and the empty tomb.**
- Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life, and **He restores out of death in all its stages.**

[26] And the report of this went out into all that land.

- The general notice that was taken of this miracle, though it was done privately; Christ's works are more talked of than considered and improved. And doubtless, they that heard only the report of Christ's miracles, were accountable for that as well as they that were eye-witnesses of them. Though we at this distance have not seen Christ's miracles, yet having an authentic history of them, we are bound to receive His doctrine; **and blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed,** Joh 20:29.

**SUMMARY: What to do in times of great, great need?**

- **Beg, plead with expectancy!!** ("come, lay Your hands on her and she shall live!")
- **So Jesus responded!!** (*So Jesus arose and followed him and so did His disciples! He went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose!!*)
- **Come into the presence of God; humble yourself sincerely before God; lay open your wants, your needs, with a holy earnestness; have unbounded confidence and expectancy in the power and goodness of Christ that your request shall be granted.**
- **If Your will be done!**
- **What a Savior! – Just a touch from Him and the girl arose from the dead!**
- **Be thankful for His grace in touching us and saving us from the dead!**
- **May we be vibrant witnesses to the world around us--of His love for them and their need for a Savior!**

**Take My Hand, Precious Lord** - Jim Reeves

*When my way growth drear Precious Lord, linger near; When my light is almost gone Hear my cry, hear my call  
Hold my hand lest I fall Take my hand, precious Lord Lead me on.*

*Precious Lord, take my hand Lead me on, let me stand; I am tired, I'm weak, I am worn Through the storm, through the night  
Lead me on to the light Take my hand, precious Lord Lead me home.*

*When my work is all done And my race here is run; Let me see by the light Thou hast shown  
That fair city so bright Where the lantern is the light; Take my hand, precious Lord Lead me on.*

*Precious Lord, take my hand Lead me on, let me stand; I am tired, I'm weak, I am worn Through the storm, through the night  
Lead me on to the light Take my hand, precious Lord. Lead me home...*

**Wonderful Grace of Jesus** – Billy Graham Crusade Choir

*Wonderful grace of Jesus, Greater than all my sin; How shall my tongue describe it, Where shall its praise begin?  
Taking away my burden, Setting my spirit free; For the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me.*

**Refrain:**

*Wonderful the matchless grace of Jesus, Deeper than the mighty rolling sea; Higher than the mountain, sparkling like a fountain, All-sufficient grace for even me! Broader than the scope of my transgressions, Greater far than all my sin and shame; Oh, magnify the precious Name of Jesus, Praise His Name!*

*Wonderful grace of Jesus, Reaching the most defiled, By its transforming power, Making him God's dear child,  
Purchasing peace and heaven For all eternity—And the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me. -- Refrain*