

## **Here's a follow-up to Sunday's sermon on Jairus and Jesus from Mark 5.**

**Why did Jesus say, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep." (Mark 5:39) and why is this important to us today?**

### **Who was present for the question?**

In that conversation circle were Jairus, his wife (and perhaps other family members), neighbors, synagogue members, James, John & Peter, and the group of professional mourners whose job it was to make lots of noise to highlight the family's grief.

### **What is the context or problem being addressed?**

When we go backwards to what has happened just prior to this question, we see Jesus reassuring Jairus after they hear early confirmation of his daughter's death. At that point, Jairus' servants try to excuse Jesus from inserting himself into their master's home and life, partially out of respect for the hopelessness of bringing a mere "teacher" into a death situation, and partially to prevent their own livelihoods from being threatened by Jairus publicly bringing Jesus into their tidy Jewish worldview.

### **What were Jesus' last words to Jairus and how does this relate to Jesus' later question?**

"Don't be afraid. Just believe." (5:36) Jesus is encouraging Jairus' budding faith in Him by pointing to God's reality versus our limited human perspective. Jesus is preparing Jairus to believe in resurrection life.

### **To whom was Jesus' question addressed?**

At first glance, it seems as though he is confronting the exaggerated grief groupies, because they are the ones who answer Jesus with sarcastic laughter "because they knew she was dead." (Luke 8:53) But, if we understand that Jesus' questions are always aimed to challenge and transform the hearers about their relationship with God and His truth, there is something more here. Jesus is subtly asserting to everyone present that death is merely temporary sleep to a God who is eternal and to humans with eternal spirits.

So, Jesus is being truthful, while he is also being publicly protective of Jairus, who is risking everything by asking Jesus to come to his home to save his daughter. Jesus is keeping this intimate moment from becoming even more of a media and miracle circus which could harm this family's young faith, or which could mute the more important work of the Gospel through other miracle-seekers.

### **How does this relate to us?**

Jesus is teaching us to look toward God's reality -- that life is far more than what we see or experience here on earth. We live now in a prelude to eternity, and we need to seek His perspective on any challenges we face, rather than seek the approval or acceptance of our earthly peers or value system. Even death, which seems so near during this time of COVID-19, is not the last word. We grieve not like others, because we know the One who has conquered sin and death. We may face ridicule for our courageous faith, but we know that the Lord faced much worse, and has redeemed our lives for eternal good. Accept Jesus as your Savior and Lord, and keep walking in trust before Him. He will never leave your side. Amen.

Blessings,  
Pastor Richard