

Mark 5:21-24, 35b-43

**When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side,
a great crowd gathered round him;
and he was by the lake.**

**Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jarius came
and, when he saw him,
he fell at his feet and begged him repeatedly:
'My little daughter is at the point of death.
Come and lay your hands on her,
so that she may be made well and live.
So he went with him.**

**Some people came from the leader's house to say:
'Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?'"
But overhearing what they said Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue,
'Do not fear, only believe.'
He allowed no one to follow him except
Peter, James, and John, the brother of James.**

**When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue,
he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly.
When he had entered, he said to them,
'Why do you make a commotion and weep?
The child is not dead but sleeping.'
And they laughed at him.**

**Then he put them all outside,
and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him,
and went in where the child was.**

He took her by the hand and said to her:
‘Talitha cum’ which means,
Little girl, get up!” And immediately
the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age)
At this they were overcome with amazement.
He strictly ordered them that no one should know this,
and told them to give her something to eat.

Meditation:

Growing up, I never doubted that Jesus was the only Son of God,
seated at the right hand of the Father.

Growing up, I always believed that Jesus had
special insights,
special knowledge,
special powers,
that no other human being, before or after him, ever had.

So to believe that he walked in and told the child to get up—
and she did—was kind of a no brainer!
Of course he could do that!
He’s God.
and God can do anything!!
and we ordinary human beings could never perform such a miracle!
right??

mmm...maybe yes, maybe no!

In Mark’s Gospel, Jesus often tells people not to tell anyone
about the miracle that just happened.

He tells people to keep silent so often that scholars call it
“The Markan Secret”

Personally, I would think that Jesus would want people to know
what amazing thing he had just done
so that they would believe in him and what he was trying to teach them.

But some scholars believe that Jesus felt his miracles actually distracted people from his
message.

People then, would seek him out for healings and cures instead of listening to his teaching
and preaching.

It is often thought that it was his deep compassion for the child and her parents that
spurred him to go so quickly to her house.

He knew he had the power to do so...

but that he also knew that performing miracles so that people would believe him was not
his purpose or mission.

He knew his mission was not about him.

It was to help people awaken to the
inbreaking of the kingdom of God...

In Jesus' understanding the child's cure was a sign of the Kingdom's arrival,
not proof of his divinity,

her cure was not the point of his mission...

But he understood that these kind of things would happen as evidence of the Presence of
the reign of Heaven on Earth.

Jesus didn't want people to become his followers because he performed miracles...

He wanted people to listen to him so that they would

**live their lives as evidence of God's kingdom
and then miraculous things could and would happen.**

**But that would mean that first they would feed the hungry,
comfort the lonely,
protect the down trodden
and forgive more than they wanted to.**

**They would have to put down their swords and pick up those crushed by poverty and
oppression...**

Then, if they lived like that, they too could do the things he did and still greater.

**Most of the people who were attracted to Jesus did not understand the depth of his
mission...and the challenge of his teachings...**

Most people who followed him wanted him to fix their lives and the world...

Now: doesn't that sound familiar!

**How often have we wanted God to fix the situation, no matter what the issue is.
How much easier it would be,
to have God just step in and put the matter straight
than for us to do the work of caring and forgiving and loving.**

We want miracles to fix all the wrongs of this world!

We want God just to do it...

**and of course...we know exactly what need to be done and how to do it,
so if God would just listen to our prayers and do as we ask...
the world would be just fine.**

Aren't you glad that it doesn't work that way!???

Jesus had a relationship with his God that was intimate and personal and powerful. and he promised us that we could too... that we could...would... do the things he did and greater... but it would be as evidence of the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth.

**When we share with those who have less...
When we consider the needs of the entire Earth Community: not just our particular tribe or nation...
When we practice love without qualifying conditions, when we allow compassion to lead us beyond human boundaries... when we forgive 70 x 7... we will discover the Reign of God and our power.
Who knows what else we will do?
Each of us has our own path and journey, our own mission and purpose.**

**But there are two things we can know for sure...
#1: Power will NOT be given to us for our ego driven agenda no matter how right and good it might seem to us...**

and #2: the Power of God will absolutely flow through us if and when we say yes to participating in God's dream for all creation... for the reign of Heaven on Earth.

So here is the most amazing miracle of all:

That when anyone of us willing to put aside our own agenda for the Dream of God!

For this miracle, the only response we can offer is:

Thank you! Amen!