**5v21-24a, 35-43 #16 Jesus - life to the dead**

* Section of M: 4 stunning miracles -> identity of J.
  + Authority over nature – evil – sickness – saved best for last: death
    - Meant to build up pic of identity of J. Who is this?
  + Each of 4 miracles: main characters. Disc – demon-pos man – outcast woman – desperate man.
* Introduce Jairus[[1]](#endnote-1): live into his story.
  + Synagogue leader - /Pharisee, /ToL - /religious professional. Administrator – organiser. Responsible for rotas: reading Torah, preaching, security, cleaning.
  + Senior. Important – respected – community leader.
* Facing worst day of his life: my little daughter is dying
  + 12yo - /really little – but to him she is. He’s her little girl.
  + Phrase he uses: at death’s door
    - /long term illness: she’s very slowly dying.
    - She is about to die. Desperately ill.
  + Some of you been there – child: /have hours. Minutes & seconds matter.
* So when J arrives on beach – word gets round[[2]](#endnote-2) – huge crowd by the time Jairus hears[[3]](#endnote-3). Comes to J – fell at his feet – pleased earnestly with him to come.
  + Jairus clearly knows who J is – Most of Mark’s gospel so far: around Galilee. His patch. Quite possibly witnessed miracles J already done. Heard teaching.
    - Sure it had crossed his mind: who is this Jesus? Now it really matters.
* Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.
  + Oddly specific – maybe seen Jesus put hands on s/o and heal them before?
    - Point: believes J can do it. If he’s quick. If he comes quickly – coz dying! –> then all hope is gone.
    - Impt: remember: we know J raises the dead. Jairus /know that. Last time: Elisha 850yrs earlier.
* So Jesus goes with him. Great.
  + Imagine hope rising in him. Maybe, just maybe – can do it – and in time. Pushing through crowd. Ever tried to move quickly in a crowd - /do it. Just have to go w flow. Frustration.
  + How Jairus feels: J suddenly stops and says who touched my clothes?
    - Imagine Jairus: who cares – come on!
  + But here: s/o else also desperate for healing. All the events of last week – poor woman – blood.
    - J takes his time – as she kneels before him - trembling with fear – tells her **v33** whole truth – whole story.
    - Jesus blesses her – reassures her – loves her. Speaks peace into her life. No doubt crowd delighted - amazed.
* But as all that is going on – v35 while Jesus was still speaking – Jairus sees faces in the crowd /want to see.
  + Think: even before they spoke – message was clear from their faces. Sorry Jairus - ‘Your daughter is dead. Why bother the teacher anymore?’
  + Hope gone. Death has won. /Options.
    - B: desc death: enemy – final & greatest enemy. /Meant to die. Made for eternal life. A&E – created to live forever. But sin -> death.
    - /Escape. Statistically: wealthy live a few years longer[[4]](#endnote-4). But no matter how wealthy – healthy – priv. /Escape death.
    - Poetic image: **Ps 18:5** The cords of the grave coiled around me.
* Jesus sees – hears this – sees pain in Jairus’ face -> Don’t be afraid
  + How can anyone say “don’t be afraid” in that moment?
    - Jairus is terrified at this moment. Whole world fallen apart.
      * Go back - house -> body of beloved daughter – wife.
    - How insensitive. If you said that: “Don’t worry mate”!
    - Except J says it with an authority that causes hope to rise in him.
  + Don’t be afraid; just believe. Believe what?
    - Perfect answer to that just seconds before:
      * The woman trembling with fear – explaining how she believed that just touching J could heal her.
    - Believe what she believed! J can do it. She believed it. Be like her!
* Jairus: choice in that moment. Choice we all face when trouble comes: child sick – job – debt – marriage.
  + Either walk away - /bother the teacher any more.
  + Or trust & walk with him.
  + Jairus /walk away. Walks w Jesus.
    - Still /idea what J would do. Raising dead /occur to him or anyone else.
  + Faith is: walking w G even when /understand. Destination unclear.
* Seems to me v37 – J dismissed the crowd – takes only 3 of 12: Peter, James & John.
  + **v38** came to house. Wailing and crying loudly.
    - Understandable: death of a child. But cultural thing: Professional mourners.
    - Rabbi Judah[[5]](#endnote-5) *Even the poorest person in Israel should hire at least two flute players and one wailing woman.*
* The child is not dead but asleep.
  + Laughed at him. Shows insincerity.
  + Also lovely little insight into death of a believer: When J is in your life, death is like sleep. Why?
    - Temporary state: just for a while.
    - Expectation: wake up to a new day.
* Jesus: put them out. Same phrase as when J cast out demons. Get out! Why?
  + What he was abt to do could start a revolution – war – Messiah – make him king – rebellion against Romans. /Point. /Time.
  + /Remove everyone: OT law required 2 or 3 witnesses to establish facts[[6]](#endnote-6). 3 disciples + parents.
  + Compassion: raised from dead: last thing: room full of ogling ppl: time with nearest & dearest.
* And so Jesus kneels by her bedside – takes her by the hand – gently says to her what any mum might say to their 12yo every morning: Little girl, I say to you, get up!
  + Simplest & gentlest of words. /Shouting - /incantations - /holy water - /ceremonies.
  + Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around.
    - /Started to feel a little better.
    - /Turned a corner on the long road to recovery.
  + Immediately – got up – walk around.
    - As immediately as the wind & waves were calmed.
    - As immediately as the woman’s bleeding stopped.
    - In an instant. Death is defeated. Death cannot hold her. Death itself bows to the authority of the Lord of Life. Such is authority of J.
  + Afraid of death today: need J!
    - Only one who can rescue us from the power of death – only J has power over the grave. Only 1 person you can trust to take you through death & to other side: one who has power over death & defeated death himself.
    - Trust him?
* Love parting phrase: …and told them to give her something to eat.
  + Like: amongst all the joy & excitement - /forget she’s prob hungry. /Eaten for a few days! Compassion!

Learn?

**Identity of J**

* So clear all through Mark: Jesus is God – he is the King of Kings, Lord of Lords. Everything in all creation bows to his authority.
  + And yet unlike our kings – rulers - celebrities – almost always: pretty self-serving.
    - He is gentle and kind and compassionate – and is drawn to the desperate and needy.
    - And eventually we will see that the KoK himself goes to the cross – to die the most shameful and barbaric death – for the sake of undeserving ppl like us. What a king!
* Why do we delight to serve him – obey him – bow to him?
  + B/c he’s king. You can cower is fear at a God who has infinite power & authority over all things.
    - But we love him b/c of his kindness – gentleness – compassion toward ppl like Jairus – b/c he welcomes sinners & eats with them. Promises: **John 6:37** whoever comes to me I will never drive away.
  + Those who reject him should be afraid of him – b/c he is God and King and has power to end your life literally in a heartbeat. Every breath we breathe is b/c he allows it.
    - But when we come to him in faith – in repentance from our sin – put our trust in him: welcomes us in.
  + Wonder: Xn person: is he lovely to you?
    - Maybe today: distant: know facts of salvation theology. Is he lovely to you? Love him? Are you holding him at a distance?
    - Allow yourself to be drawn in - /fight it. Allow his goodness to win you over.

**Quick word abt healing.**

JMac lists 5 distinctive things[[7]](#endnote-7) about how J healed ppl:

* **With a word or touch.** 
  + /Incantations. /Props. Money /hands.
  + /“sow £100 seed and we’ll pray for your healing”. “/Send off for your bottle of miracle healing water[[8]](#endnote-8)”
* **Instant.** 
  + /Said “I’ve been healed and ever since I’m slowly getting better”. Always instant.
* **Total.** 
  + /Ever said “healed, but better take it easy for a bit”. “Been healed – waiting for it to be fully manifest in the physical”. Always complete.
* **All disease.** 
  + /Just headaches, slight aches & pains – emotional pain - invisible things. Paralysis – leprosy – death!
* **All kinds of ppl:** Rich – poor. Some came w faith. Others /seem to.
  + J /sent s/o away saying “come back when you have more faith.”
* Fact is: /ever healed like J. Even apostles /heal at will.
  + Paul’s gift of healing was temporary[[9]](#endnote-9) - /turn it on-off. Spirit-empowered – Spirit is Sovereign. Wind blows where it pleases.
  + /Healers. 1Cor 12 “gifts of healings” - suggest:
    - Might have s/o w gift of healing for a particular situation – if only we’d pray & lay hands on ppl – might discover Sp giving those gifts more often!
    - /Fake it!
  + Those resn bodies: worth the wait!

**Lastly: who relate to?**

* **Crowds:** Laughing at Jesus.
  + Miracles: what nonsense! Plenty of us were there once. Mocking.
  + Who will you choose to follow who is better than Jesus?
* **Jairus:** Bottom fallen out of your world – all kinds of trouble in your life.
  + Choose: walk away – listen to those who say: /Bother the teacher any more.
  + Or walk w him – trust him - /be afraid.
* **Little girl:** needs to be woken up – you today?
  + Know spiritual deadness in you – need to be brought to life by J? (Actually, if you feel that, you can be sure the Sp is already doing s/t!)
  + Ask him: Lord Jesus – make me alive. Acknowledge so much more than I can see or understand. Out of my grasp. Need new life in me[[10]](#endnote-10).
* **Parents & disciples:** NIV: completely astonished. Gk: amazed with mega-amazement.
  + Series. Hope you.
  + End: song – listen. Tells story. Focus @ end: /tell anyone.
    - /War – rebellion - /time. Imagine how hard!
  + For us: tell!

1. His name is a Greek version of the Jewish name “Jair” which means “God enlightens” – which is appropriate because God did enlighten him! [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Indeed, it seems the crowd had gathered in anticipation of Jesus’ arrival. Luke 8:40 [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. In fact, Jesus has a significant conversation with John’s disciples there on the beach before Jairus arrives. (Matthew 9:18, cf v14-17) [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. Alarmingly, 9 years! (At least that’s the headline) <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/jan/15/being-wealthy-adds-nine-years-to-life-expectancy-says-study> [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. Just after the time of Jesus: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judah_ha-Nasi> [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. Deuteronomy 19:15 [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/41-6/kingdom-power> [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
8. The evil Peter Popoff, who, incredibly, is still conning people after all these years: <https://www.businessinsider.com/scam-everlasting-after-25-years-debunked-faith-healer-still-preaching-debt-relief-scam-2011-9?r=US&IR=T> [↑](#endnote-ref-8)
9. For more about this, see my sermon on 1Corinthians 12:4-11 “What are spiritual gifts” [↑](#endnote-ref-9)
10. Cut for space: Two ppl on knees before Jesus in the space of a few seconds:

    Woman: social outcast, poverty-stricken reject.

    Man: well-known, respected, wealthy.

    Both afraid. Both been dealt a cruel blow in life. B/c comes to us all.

    Both have to believe Jesus. Trust Jesus.

    J message to all of us today same: believe him. Trust him. Put your faith in him. Believe he is who he says he is.

    Allow him to win you over. [↑](#endnote-ref-10)