

Compass Bearing #28

Devotions to Navigate the Coronavirus Pandemic

"Sometimes the End is Really the Beginning "

Tuesday, May 26, 2020

by Pastor Jeremy Duncan

Mark 5:21-43

Jesus Raises a Dead Girl and Heals a Sick Woman

²¹ When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. ²² Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. ²³ He pleaded earnestly with him, "My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live." ²⁴ So Jesus went with him.

A large crowd followed and pressed around him. ²⁵ And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. ²⁶ She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. ²⁷ When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸ because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed." ²⁹ Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

³⁰ At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?"

³¹ "You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?' "

³² But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. ³³ Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. ³⁴ He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."

³⁵ While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher anymore?"

³⁶ Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, "Don't be afraid; just believe."

³⁷ He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. ³⁸ When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. ³⁹ He went in and said to them, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep." ⁴⁰ But they laughed at him.

After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. ⁴¹ He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha koum!" (which means "Little girl, I say to you, get up!"). ⁴² Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. ⁴³ He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.

We see a period...the end...no alternatives...no second chances...no do-overs...no stops...no restarts...no going back. The little girl in Mark 5 was dead. No question mark. It was final! She had taken her last breath. Friends and family were in mourning. To all, it was the end of her story.

Maybe you have faced an end in your life where you felt the same way. There was such a strong feeling of finality that it felt impossible to move forward. It was the end. How could something different ever be as good as what it was?

I don't know about you, but I hate endings. Saying goodbye, either to a person, a moment in time, or a season of life can be hard...really hard. My nostalgic nature tries hard to cling to that which is passing by in an attempt to keep it forever. I truly loathe saying goodbye, so much so that I would rather just avoid it altogether.

But, what if...

God sometimes allows things in our lives to die...to wither...to dry up, so that He can make something completely new?

What if...

The end of something old is the start of something amazing?

What if...

The end is really just the beginning?

You see, Jesus has a way of making things new again.

Those in the story of Jairus' daughter in Mark 5 didn't know she'd forever live in the pages of our Bibles. They didn't know that her story would impact people centuries later. All they knew is that this young girl was gone. Nothing they did could bring her back.

That was until an encounter with Jesus.

You'd have to think that Jairus was upset in this moment...really upset. His daughter was lifeless. He was facing a substantial "end" in life.

So Jesus said to Jairus, "Don't be afraid; just believe."

Don't be afraid; just believe!

And, shortly thereafter, the old became new.

And, shortly thereafter, the end became a new beginning.

Jesus raised this little girl from the dead. Within seconds of encountering His presence, she was walking and talking again.

As much as we hate to admit it, in order for a new beginning, there has to be an ending. For each new day to start, the previous day must end. For a new job to begin, we may have to resign from the one before. For a new relationship to blossom, we may have to move on from the previous.

Endings are hard! But, what if an end in your life is just the beginning of something truly amazing? With Jesus, all things are possible.

Don't be afraid; just believe!

APPLICATION

- Are there things in your life that you are clinging to (relationships, situations, a job, etc.) that you need to let die in order for something new to flourish?
- What can you do in your life to lean into Jesus to discern His will for your next steps in life rather than being self-seeking?
- Spend some time with the Father in prayer. Take your questions, concerns, and uncertainties to Him lovingly with complete trust. Don't be afraid. Just believe.