Questions for Discussion

October 18, 2020

Strong Jesus: Mark’s Gospel and the Roadmap to Victorious Living

Life Walks In

Mark 5:22-24, 35-43

*Jesus brings life into every place he’s welcomed.*

1. Our passage this morning concerns the leader of a local synagogue who loses his twelve-year-old daughter to death. But when the terrible news reaches him, Jesus’ encouragement is, “Do not fear, only believe.” (verse 36). Just as we saw last week as the disciples had to deal with a terrifying storm at sea (Mark 4:40), Jesus tells people facing the worst crises of their lives to choose faith over fear. Can you remember a time in your life when you faced the same choice—maybe the death of a loved one, a personal failure or catastrophic situation? In that moment of greatest need, which direction did you turn—toward your own fears or to trust in Jesus? What do you think you can do now in order to spiritually prepare yourself for the next time a crisis comes?
2. When Jesus enters the home where the little girl lies, he’s confronted by a “commotion” of mourners (verses 38-40a). The sermon pointed out that the custom of the day was to hire professional mourners who would provide an acceptable environment for expressing grief and help the family deal with the inevitability of death. But when Jesus walked into the room, the spiritual atmosphere changed. Instead of giving into death’s victory, Jesus invited the people to receive the life only he could bring. “The child is not dead but sleeping,” he said. Do you think there may be areas in your life where you’ve accepted what the world told you about death, failure, loss and grief instead of embracing Jesus’ promise of life? The great promise of Jesus’ resurrection is that there’s hope beyond the grave. Are you able to live into that great promise so that it affects the other areas of your life even in hard times? Why or why not?
3. The high point of the passage is when Jesus brings the little girl back to life. While her restored life is a promise of future resurrection for all who know the Lord, it’s also a miracle in its own right and the sermon points out the three movements that take place: Jesus’ *touch*, Jesus’ *word* and Jesus’ *power*. Which of those three do you feel that you need most right now, in this current season of your life? Why?

*Set us free, loving Father, from the bondage of our sins, and in your goodness and mercy give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*