

# The daughter of Jairus



Matthew 9 : 18, 19, 23-26 / Mark 5 : 21-24; 35-43 / Luke 8 : 40-42; 49-56

*The daughter of Jairus is gravely ill. Distressed, the wealthy ruler of the synagogue turns to Jesus of Nazareth for help. He completely trusts Jesus' healing powers. Even when his servant brings him the terrible news that his child has died, he still holds fast to the words of Jesus: "Don't be afraid, just believe!" The Lord Jesus sees not only the pain and grief of Jairus, but also his hope. The Son of God brings the young girl back to life.*

The children are taught that no distress is hopeless before God. One who follows Jesus Christ, may see miracles. Those who believe in him need not fear.

**A** young girl is lying in her bed. It is dark. She moves restlessly. Her eyes are closed. Is she dreaming perhaps? No, the young girl is very, very ill. She has not eaten for days, and has consequently lost much weight. Her face is flushed with fever. The doctors have tried to help her, but without success. Her parents have summoned a famous doctor from a distant city and now stand watching anxiously while he examines their child. Fearfully they await his findings. What is wrong? Why does he not speak? Jairus cannot bear the strain any longer. He takes the doctor by the shoulders and cries: "Please, please say something!" "I am so very sorry," says the doctor with a heavy sigh, "no one can help your child any more. I am afraid that she will soon die." Jairus is deeply shocked. His arms drop limply to his side and he shuffles out of the sickroom, his shoulders bent under the burden of his grief. Like an old, old man he sits down on the nearest bench and weeps. His wife comes to sit next to him and puts her hand on his shoulder in an attempt to comfort him. "Is there really nothing we can do?" he asks her. She, too, is very sad. She starts weeping as she remembers: "In a few days' time it will be her birthday. She is only twelve years old... But listen! I have heard that Jesus of Nazareth will be coming today. I know that he has helped many people. Maybe he can help our daughter too!"

"Of course, yes, you are quite right! I will go immediately and ask him to come here. If anyone can still help us, it will be he."

Jairus hurries off. Normally he would have sent a servant if he wanted to invite someone to his home, but today he runs through the streets himself. Every minute is precious! Completely out of breath, he arrives at the shore of the lake. Many people are gathered there. He completely forgets his manners and shoves and pushes and forces his way through the crowd until he is standing before Jesus.

"Great Master!" he bursts out. "My daughter is near death. She may die at any moment! Only you can heal her! Please come and lay your hands on her. By your power she can be healed!" The Lord Jesus sees Jairus's despair, but he also sees his belief and hope. That is why he is immediately prepared to go with him. As their way is blocked by the crowds milling around them their progress is very slow. Jairus tries to contain his ever-increasing despair. Over and over he prays: "Please, please let us not be too late!" But the Lord Jesus smiles at him reassuringly. Finally they turn into the alley where Jairus lives.

When Jairus sees two servants come running out of the house, he is filled with a terrible foreboding. They rush forward, and stop in front of Jairus, faces sad and uncertain. Then one of them says softly: "It is too late! Even the Lord

## Jesus Christ is everybody's friend

Jesus can no longer help. Your daughter is dead." Jairus feels as if his heart has stopped beating. Unable to speak, he stands there as if transfixed. But the Lord gently takes his arm and says: "Don't be afraid, just believe, and she will be healed!" Jairus cannot imagine how this could be. Why does Jesus say something like that to him when it is already too late? He looks into Jesus' eyes and new confidence fills his heart. He trusts the word of the Master: "Just believe! Everything will be fine."

2

The crowd must remain outside. Only Peter, John and James are allowed to enter with the Lord Jesus. Everyone inside the house has heard of the dying girl and they are all crying and wailing. The Lord Jesus says to them: "Why are you crying? The child is not dead, she's only sleeping." Some laugh,



others mutter under their breath: "We know when someone is dead." The Lord sends everybody out and the house becomes quiet and peaceful.

The parents take the Lord to the bedside of their daughter. She is lying there quite still and pale. She does not move, it looks as if she is asleep, but she is dead. The Son of God gently takes the girl's hand and says: "My child, get up!"

3

Then the miracle happens! Slowly the girl opens her eyes. She looks around in surprise. Then she sees her parents and smiles. She sits up in bed. Yes, she is alive and well again! The parents hug their daughter and cry with sheer joy. They want to thank the Lord Jesus from the depth of their heart, but they cannot utter a word. Still, the Lord Jesus knows what they want to say. He says: "Bring her something to eat." Then he advises them to thank God and not him, and adds: "Please do not tell anyone what has happened here."

By now Jairus has also recovered his composure. Trembling with emotion he says: "For the Lord death is not final. This Jesus is stronger than death. He has conquered death!"

4

*Jairus's daughter was very ill. Jairus called the Lord Jesus, but when he arrived, the girl had already died. Through his power the Son of God brought the girl back to life.*

- 1 To emphasize this, we look at their hands. We wonder whose hands they are and why they are holding each other.
- 2 We look at the picture again. Jairus places his worries about the life of his daughter entirely into the hands of the Lord. Despite his despair, he completely trusts the Lord.
- 3 We look at the picture in the children's book. The children relate the rest of the story; the teacher complements where necessary.
- 4 We encourage the children to tell of incidents when the Lord has helped them in extraordinary circumstances. If we put out our hand to Jesus Christ, he gladly helps. He is happy when we trust him and ask him for his help.