
RESURRECTION

As Christians, we call ourselves “Resurrection people.”

- We like our Easter celebrations:
 - the music; the flowers; the decorations.
- We like to celebrate the resurrection of our LORD.

But I suspect many of us have forgotten about this most important part of our identity with Easter having happened several long weeks ago.

GOD, though, wants us to live in the joy of the resurrection,

- so, GOD puts signs of the resurrection all around us:
 - Spring with flowers and birds, buds on the trees, new life coming forth, and other reminders as well.

I like movies about death and resurrection:

- Hoosiers, Gone with the Wind, and ET are some of my favorites.
 - Movies like these take us from great moments of sadness to great moments of hope and possibility.

GOD wants us to find signs of the resurrection around us every day.

- Certainly, one place we can look is in the scriptures, and today’s gospel is a very good example.

Let’s start with some bible study because this text is also very rich in things to mine from GOD’s Word.

First, let’s consider the Gospel of Mark in general.

- One of the themes in Mark is that of the urgency of the gospel; that the good news of JESUS CHRIST cannot be held back.

This is how Mark shows it:

- v. 29 Immediately her bleeding stopped...
- v. 30 At once JESUS realized that power had gone out from HIM.
- v. 35 While JESUS was still speaking...
- v. 42 Immediately the girl stood up...

(If you have your Bible, you can circle those words and draw connecting lines from them, or do it when you get home.)

- The gospel of JESUS pushes into our world with the good news of resurrection and new life.

Another purpose of Mark’s gospel is to evangelize Jews, Romans, and others.

- v. 41 He took her by the hand and said to her, “*Talitha kum!*” (which means, “Little girl, I say to you, get up!”)
 - “*Talitha kum*” is written in Aramaic, the everyday language of the Jewish people of that day.
 - But Mark also translates these words for non-Jewish readers like Romans and others.
 - Mark wants everyone to know that JESUS is the hope of the world.

Let me give you some background on the people in this passage:

- Jairus, is a synagogue ruler—like a member of the church council.
 - Woman with bleeding—for twelve years she has had a slow menstrual bleeding making her unclean (so she can't go to worship) and unmarriageable (because she can't have children).
 - Crowd—mostly people who had come to hear JESUS and, more likely, see if HE would perform a miracle for them.
 - Mourners—people specially designated in communities and sometimes even paid to join and help the family in mourning when someone dies.
 - Disciples—the twelve chosen by JESUS to learn from HIM and carry on HIS ministry.
 - Peter, James and John—the three who were most trusted and mentored by JESUS to carry on HIS work.
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Let's now look at this gospel passage more closely.

What we really have here is the same story twice.

- I know some of you are thinking, "What is he talking about? This is two different stories!"

But let's look.

- The stories of the woman and the little girl are actually the same.

Here are some more obvious clues.

- The word "Daughter."
 - v. 23 The words of Jairus to JESUS: "My little daughter is dying."
 - v. 34 The words of JESUS to the woman: "Daughter, your faith has healed you."
- The use of "Touch."
 - v. 28 "If I just touch HIS clothes..."
 - v. 30 "Who touched MY clothes?"
 - v. 41 HE took her by the hand...

There is more that ties these two stories together:

- Both stories are about desperation.
- Both stories are about faith.
- Both stories are about healing.
- Both stories are about restoration.
- Both stories are about dead people.
- Both stories are about resurrection.

Perhaps you don't see that both are dead.

- Certainly *Jairus's daughter is: no life; no breath; no future; dead.

But this, in reality, is just as true for the woman with bleeding:

- no husband – can't bear children;
- no active relationships with GOD or with others because she is ritually unclean;
- no future – a life of isolation;
 - for all practical purposes, she is dead.

Clearly, there is desperation from both Jairus and the woman:

- v. 23 "*Please come and put YOUR hands on her so that she will be healed and live.*"
- v. 28 "*If I just touch HIS clothes, I will be healed.*"
 - And there is faith and healing, isn't there?

In fact, there are lessons to be learned here about healing and other important ministries:

- First, when looking for GOD's healing, eliminate those of little faith.
 - v. 40 *"But they laughed at HIM."*
 - So, what did JESUS do? HE put them all out.
- Second, include those with strong faith.
 - v. 37 *HE did not let anyone follow except Peter, James, and John.*

And one more similarity between the two stories: there is resurrection for both.

- Both go from being dead to alive.
- Both are made alive.
- Both receive a new life—resurrection.

Imagine what life would have been for each of them:

- for a woman who had no life and no relationships;
- for a family who lost a child, only to be given her back again.
 - And their stories are our story, aren't they?

Resurrection can happen to each of us if we respond in faith and are willing to:

- die to the old self (that's confession, which must precede forgiveness);
- and rise to find new life in CHRIST (that comes both in forgiveness from the past, and new direction because of that forgiveness).

There is new life—resurrection, if you will—when we claim:

- the power of JESUS—the power we see here to:
 - to overcome sickness;
 - to overcome death.

The power of JESUS is available to all of us:

- to heal relationships;
- to give hope;
- to create a new future.

The power of JESUS is the power of the resurrection.

The resurrection didn't happen just once, 2,000 years ago.

- It can happen each and every day in our lives and in our relationships.
- It can happen each and every day to help us overcome dependencies and addictions.
- It can happen each and every day to create new hope for us and new direction for our lives.

Resurrection happens each and every day when we rise again to claim the promises of life in CHRIST given in baptism.

- Resurrection happens each and every day when we renew our commitment to be resurrection people, living in the love and power and life of JESUS CHRIST.
- Resurrection happens each and every day that we let our faith lead us to the places that JESUS wants us and needs us to go,
 - helping offer HIS healing and hope in the places that seem to only have death.
 - Resurrection happens when we claim it and live it each and every day.