

# THE APPROACHES THAT LAY HOLD OF JESUS' AUTHORITY: HOW TO APPROACH JESUS MARK 05:21–43

## *Introduction*

How can a person lay hold of Jesus and His power? This passage deals specifically with the desperate and hopeless person; it shows how the desperate person can approach Jesus and secure His help in any situation.

- I. The crowds gathered around Jesus (v. 21).
- II. Scene 1: a ruler's desperate approach (vv. 22-24).
- III. Scene 2: a woman's hopeless approach (vv. 25-34)
- IV. Scene 3: a ruler's believing approach (vv. 35-43).

### MARK 05:21–43 FAITH, BELIEVE

The one thing that lays hold of Jesus and His power is faith (See *Faith*, Mt. 9:18-34; *Faith and Prayer*, Mk. 11:22-23; *Faith vs. Works*, Gal. 2:16; see Jn. 2:24; Heb. 10:38.) □

### MATHEW 09:18–34 FAITH

The thing that God wants from men is the very same thing a parent wants from a child - faith and trust, love and dependence. God wants a man to believe and trust Him, to love and depend upon Him. This is clearly seen throughout this passage.

1. God responds to true faith. God does whatever good a person asks if that person really believes in Him and His power. And amazingly, the request can be *on behalf of another person*. God will touch the life of another person because we pray in faith (see Mt. 8:5-13).
  - a. The daughter was raised from the dead because of the father's faith (Mt. 9:18, 25).
  - b. The hemorrhaging woman was healed and saved because of her own faith (Mt. 9:21-22).
  - c. The two blind men received their sight because of their own persistent faith (Mt. 9:29-30).
  - d. The mute man possessed by an evil spirit was delivered and received his sanity because of the faith of others (Mt. 9:32-33).
2. Our faith is only as strong as the *object of our faith*. The power of faith does not rest in a person's own faith but in God and in God alone (Mk. 6:30). Christ can

do anything no matter what it is, but the question is, will He? It always depends upon two things.

- a. Is the request good? Is it good for all, both for the people involved and for the world? And is it good for God Himself and His glory? Only God can know if a request is good; that is, does it embrace good for all persons involved. This is what is meant by asking according to His will. But note this: a great deal of what is good (His will) is already revealed to us in His Word. We can ask according to His Word and He will answer — if we truly believe.
- b. Is the request really asked in faith? Do we really believe that God can and will do the good that we ask?

**Heb 11:6** *And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.* □

### MARK 11:22–23 FAITH AND PRAYER

*“Have faith in God,” Jesus answered. “I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him.”* **Mark 11:22-23**

The first condition to prayer is faith in God. But note four significant facts.

1. The object of faith is God Himself. The critical words are “in God.” There are three significant things that need to be noted about the object of faith.
  - a. Jesus did not say, “Have faith,” but “Have faith *in God*.” Faith has to have an object. “In God” is where one is to have faith, where one is to place his faith. Faith has no value by itself; only the object (God) has value.

The Bible never says to have faith in faith, yet this is the experience of many. Too often, a great difficulty or problem arises, and the believer feels he has to *arouse* his faith. He feels that if he can just *stir up* enough faith, he will whip the problem. But in reality he has had faith in faith. His mind, his attention and his heart have been focused upon faith — not upon God.

- b. Faith has no power; it is the object that has power. A man's faith is not going to remove the mountain. God is going to remove the mountain. The strength of faith is not faith, but God. In the Bible practically everyone who came to God had weak faith. Only a few had strong faith, yet God saved them and granted their requests (see Mt. 14:22-33).

- c. Faith requires knowing the object. The more one knows the object of faith, the more one believes in the object (see Heb. 11:6). For example, consider two men who want to go out on a frozen lake to fish. One man is told to go ahead and cross the lake. He is assured by his friend that the ice will hold him up. Yet, when he begins to step out on the ice, he cautiously and tremblingly takes step after step — usually until he can stand it no more and returns. But the other man walks out courageously and boldly, cuts a hole in the ice, sits down, and begins to fish.

Note three important questions.

=> What supported the man sitting out on the ice? Not his faith, but the ice - the object of his faith.

=> Who had the strongest faith? Of course the man out on the ice. The one with the weak faith is the man who slowly inched his way back.

=> What made the difference between the faith of the two? One thing. One man knew the ice and the other man *did not know* the ice.

2. A second fact to note about faith is its purpose. The purpose of faith is to remove mountains. Jesus' teaching says, "Have faith in God...[and then] say to this mountain, Go." Mountains represent the immovable, the impossible. It is something almost too steep to climb, almost too high to cross, almost too awesome to see beyond.

This is the reason Jesus discussed prayer and communion along with faith. One learns to have faith in God as He prays and communes with God. And the more he prays and communes with God, the more he will know God; and the more he knows God, the more he can experience faith in God and experience the removal of mountains that slow his progress through life. (See *Faith and Power*, Mt. 17:20.)

3. A third fact to note about faith is the way to possess faith. The way is prayer. Jesus explicitly says, "Anyone... [who] does not doubt...but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him." There are two crucial points in this promise.

a. Not doubting at all. This means never having a thought whether a thing can be done or not. It means not hesitating, not wondering, not questioning, not considering, not being concerned at all. Realistically, only God Himself can know if a thing will happen or not — know so perfectly that no wondering thought would ever cross His mind. What Christ is after is that we grow in belief and trust. He wants us to believe that all things are possible through Christ who strengthens us (Phil. 4:13). (Mt. 17:15-16; 17:17-18; 17:19-20; see *Lack of Power*, Mk. 9:18.)

b. Believing in God's authority. Note the words "says" (see *Faith and Power*, Mt. 17:20). The power of Christ came from the authority of God. All He had to do was *say*, that is, speak the word and it was done. That is the very point He was making to us. If we believe, doubting not, then we stand in the authority of God. We may *say*, speak the word, and it shall be done.

4. A fourth fact to note about faith is the result of faith. A man who prays having faith, truly "having faith in God, will receive whatever he asks." The mountains which confront him will be removed, *effectively and quickly* (Mk. 11:20-21).

**Mat 21:22** *"If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."*

**Mark 9:23** *"'If you can?'" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes."*

**John 14:12-14** *"I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."*

**Psa 91:15** *He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honour him.*

**Isa 41:17** *"The poor and needy search for water, but there is none; their tongues are parched with thirst. But I the Lord will answer them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them." □*

#### MATHEW 17:20 FAITH AND POWER; MUSTARD SEED

*He replied, "Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." **Mathew 17:20***

What does Christ mean by "faith as small as a mustard seed"? The mustard seed was known for its small size, the smallest of all plants; yet it grew to be one of the largest bushes (Mt. 13:32). Picture a mustard seed lying in a person's hand. It is *real* and it is *small*. Just imagine the potential for *growth and use*. So it is with faith: faith is "as small as a mustard seed." It is real and small, yet it has enormous power for growth and for use and for ministry.

**Mat 21:22** *"If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."*

**Mark 9:23** *"'If you can?'" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes." □*

#### MARK 09:18 LACK OF POWER

*"Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not." **Mark 09:18***

Why do the servants of God fail? Why do they often lack power? Why does their faith weaken? This experience of the disciples reveals much about spiritual failure and lack of power.

1. A sense that Christ is far away and out of reach makes one ineffective. The indwelling presence and power of Christ are just not felt — not to the extent that they need to be available. In the above situation Christ was absent, but His power was still available. The disciples were just not all that aware of His power.
2. The lack of leadership causes the faith and loyalty of some to weaken. The nine disciples apparently had no leader to stand forth as a Champion of faith and power.
3. Uncompromising unbelief can weaken one's trust (v. 16). This was true of the teachers of the law, their unbelief and arguing weakened their trust. They distracted and sapped the disciples' faith and power.
4. An atmosphere of questioning and unbelief often affects the faith and power of a person's life. A terrible atmosphere of unbelief and distrust in God was created by everyone present: the man's questionable belief (v. 22), the teachers of the law arguing of (v. 16), the disciples' lack of faith and power, and the people's disturbance over the whole affair.

What happens when the servants of God have no power? What are the results of a powerless life and ministry?

1. No power causes embarrassment and shame.
2. No power causes the world to argue and ridicule and belittle.
3. No power argues against the deity (validity) of Christ and God.
4. No power causes the arguing about God and His ability to deliver.

The answer to no power is given by Christ. Power comes (1) by seeking and (2) by prayer (vv. 28-29). □

### GALATIANS 02:16

#### FAITH VS. WORKS; SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS, OBSERVING LAW

*“We know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.” Galatians 02:16*

Why is it that a man can never be justified nor secure righteousness by works and law? Why is it that a man can never approach God by works and law?

1. There are two ways that a man can try to secure righteousness and approach God.

- a. A man can try to work to secure righteousness; he can do all he can to keep the law of God and to please God. But note: a man can do this...
- only if he can keep the law perfectly, never breaking it once and never violating it a single time
  - only if he can make sure that every single thing he ever does or thinks is perfectly good and righteous and pure
  - only if he can please God in every act, word and thought, never displeasing God in anything

Only if a man can do this can he secure righteousness by works and law. But what man can be perfect and good and righteous and pure in every single act, word and thought? It is absolutely impossible to secure righteousness by works and law. A person may try to approach God through works and law, but he can never achieve perfection — not perfect righteousness and holiness without which *no person will ever see God.*

**Heb 12:14** *Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.*

**Mat 7:22-23** *“Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’”*

**Rom 3:20** *Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.*

**Gal 3:10** *All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.”*

**James 4:17** *Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.*

- b. A man can believe that Jesus Christ is God's gift of righteousness to the world — that God so loved the world...
- that He gave His Son to live a perfect life upon earth in order to secure the Perfect and Ideal Righteousness for man.
  - that He gave His Son to take the unrighteousness of man upon Himself and to die for man, that is, to bear the judgment of unrighteousness for man.
  - that he gave His Son to arise from the dead for man in order to conquer death and to give man a new and perfect life that is eternal.

A man can believe that God loves him and takes his faith in Christ and counts it as righteousness.

A man can believe that God loves him and accepts him because he honours His Son Jesus Christ — honours Jesus Christ by believing and following Him.

A man can believe that God loves His Son so much that He will take any man who honours His Son and do anything for him. If the man believes in Jesus Christ for righteousness, then God will count the man righteous.

**Eph 2:8-9** *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast.*

**Titus 3:4-5** *But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.*

2. Note another point: the two ways that men try to approach God are completely different from each other. Faith and works are incompatible. Faith is always the opposite of works.  
=> If a man works to keep the law in order to be righteous, then he can offer to God only *self-righteousness*, only the righteousness of the works *he has done*.  
=> If a man trusts the righteousness of Jesus Christ *for his righteousness*, then he can offer the righteousness of Christ to God. He can come to God in the righteousness of Christ.

God always accepts the righteousness of His Son, Jesus Christ. For any man who truly trusts the righteousness of Christ — who truly gives Christ all he is and has — God accepts that man's trust as righteousness. The man is not righteous, but God takes his trust in Christ and accepts it as righteousness.

3. Note still another fact: a man who *believes God for righteousness* approaches God entirely differently than the man who approaches God in his own self-righteousness.
  - a. The man who approaches God in his own righteousness...
    - presents his self-righteousness to God *by himself*.
    - depends upon his own righteousness.
    - trust his own righteousness.
    - believes in his own righteousness.
    - declares that he has the strength and power to make himself righteous and acceptable to God.
  - b. The man who approaches God in the righteousness of Jesus Christ...
    - presents his love and trust in the righteousness of Jesus Christ as his righteousness. (God could never turn down a person who loved and trusted His Son with all his heart.)

- rejects dependence upon himself and depends upon the righteousness of Jesus Christ.
- gives up trusting his own righteousness and trusts the righteousness of Christ.
- no longer believes in his own righteousness, but believes in Christ for righteousness.
- declares that he does not have the power to make himself righteous and acceptable to God; he trusts the power of God to make him righteous and acceptable.

Note what this is saying: a man either believes he has the power to save himself and to keep himself from dying or else he believes that God has the power to save him. A man either trusts his own power for salvation and life or else he trusts God's power. If he believes that he has the power to save himself, then he works to make himself righteous and to live forever. If he believes that God alone has the power to save him, then he trusts God for righteousness and life.

In conclusion, no one is ever justified by works or by law. We may try to secure righteousness by works and law, but it is always self-righteousness, and self-righteousness always ends up with self: in the grave — dead, having passed the way of all flesh — short of God's glory, perfection and disqualified from ever living with God. Self-righteousness is never acceptable to God; works and law can never justify a man and make him perfect.

However, we can secure righteousness by faith. We can trust God as a child trusts his father. We can trust that God loves us enough to count our love and trust for His Son as righteousness.

FAITH IN CHRIST IS GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS,  
THE ONLY RIGHTEOUSNESS  
THAT MAKES A PERSON ACCEPTABLE TO GOD.

**Rom 3:21-22** *But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference.*

**Rom 10:4** *Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.*

**Phil 3:9** *Christ — the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.*

**1 Cor 1:30** *It is because of him [God] that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God — that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.*

**Col 3:3** *For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.*



*2 Cor 5:21* God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

4. Note one other fact: righteousness by works honours and makes man supreme and preeminent, the centre and core of life. Righteousness by faith honours God and makes God supreme and preeminent, the centre and core of life. God is the One to be obeyed out of a heart of love, adoration and appreciation for what He has done (Rom. 2:29). □

### **I. *Mark 05:21* Response to Jesus Christ**

Crowds gathered around Jesus again. He had crossed back over the Sea of Galilee, apparently near Capernaum, His headquarters. The events that follow happened near the Sea of Galilee.

### **II. *Mark 05:22–24* An Attitude of Desperation**

The first scene is that of a ruler's desperate approach (See *Jairus*, Mt. 9:18-19). A desperate approach always lays hold of Jesus. Jesus sees and answers a person who comes to Him in desperation. A desperate approach involves four attitudes.

1. There is a selfless attitude. Jairus was a ruler, one of the most important men in the community (Mt. 9:18-19). The rulers were now violently opposed to Jesus and were publicly expressing their opposition. By coming to Jesus, Jairus was running the risk of arousing the hostility of his peers and of being censored. He could have easily lost his position and profession.

Something else is also noticeable. Jairus himself was approaching Jesus. Why would he leave his dying daughter's side to seek Jesus' help instead of sending someone else? Could it be that even they of his own household feared approaching Jesus because of the heated opposition? Jairus would most likely not have left his daughter's side if there had been another person willing to come to Jesus.

The point is that Jairus was desperate for help. No man could help him; this much he knew. But he had heard that Jesus could help; therefore, he set aside everything — profession, friends, family — he forgot self completely; and he went to Jesus for help.

*Isa 66:2* “Has not my hand made all these things, and so they came into being?” declares the Lord. “This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word.”

2. There is a humble attitude. Note the words, “he fell at His feet” (v. 22). Jairus pushed and shoved his way through the crowd as rapidly as he could. When he caught his first glimpse of Jesus, his pace quickened; and when he finally reached Jesus, he “fell at His feet.” This is humility at its height. The ruler willingly humbled himself and willingly...

- laid aside all his pride and dignity.
- laid aside his family and friends in all their prejudice and opposition.
- laid aside his profession with all its security, fame and authority.

*Mat 18:4* “Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

*James 4:6* But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

*James 4:10* Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

3. There is a pleading attitude. The word *pleaded* (*parakaleo*) means to call to one's side for help, to plead, to entreat, to beg. The ruler pleaded and begged Jesus to help him.

*Psa 91:15* He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honour him.

*Isa 58:9* Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: ‘Here am I.’ If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk.

*Jer 33:3* ‘Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.’

4. There is an expectant, believing attitude. The man had a little daughter twelve years old, and she was dying. Note the man's great faith: if Jesus would come and lay His hands upon her, she would be healed and live.

*Mat 21:22* “If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.”

*John 14:14* “You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.”

5. The result and the impact of these four attitudes were powerful. Jesus granted the request of the desperate approach. Desperation — a selfless, humble, pleading, believing desperation — gets help. Jesus meets the need of the desperate who come to Him with...

- a selfless attitude
- a humble attitude
- a pleading attitude
- a believing attitude

### III. *Mark 05:25–34 An Attitude of Hopelessness*

The second scene is that of a woman's hopeless approach (Mt. 9:20-22). This approach always lays hold of Jesus. Jesus senses the touch of the hopeless and always helps the hopeless who come to Him. A hopeless approach involves four attitudes.

1. There is the last resort attitude. The woman had been bleeding or haemorrhaging for twelve years; it was uncontrollable. No one could touch her nor anything she had touched. By law she was considered unclean, so unclean that she was to be divorced

by her husband (Lev. 15:25-27). She was to be totally cut off from society and religious worship. This particular woman had tried all she knew. She had seen “many doctors” and “spent all she had,” and yet she “grew worse.” There was nowhere else to run except to Jesus. (Mt. 9:20-22)

**Mat 11:28** “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”

**Thought 1.** When all else fails, there is Jesus. However, most people try all else before Jesus. Nevertheless, He loves us and He cares for us — enormously so. We should turn to Jesus, for He is always waiting for us — waiting even if we turn to Him as a last resort.

**Thought 2.** A person who has been brought to the point of helplessness and hopelessness can be helped. When there is no hope anywhere else, there is hope in Christ.

**Thought 3.** There is no need to reach the point of hopelessness; no need to reach the *end of our ropes*; no need to become utterly depressed. Circumstances should never be allowed to destroy us, not to the point of utter hopelessness. Nevertheless, many reach that point. The one thing to remember is that Jesus does care and will never turn away from the hopeless. He opens His arms to all who come — even to the hopeless.

2. There is the shy, embarrassed, unworthy attitude. Note the woman elbowed her way through the crowd and came up behind Jesus. She wanted to touch Jesus without being seen or noticed. Why? She was embarrassed and felt unworthy. Her haemorrhaging was a personal, intimate matter for her, something she did not want to be known and discussed. She was considered unclean; therefore, she felt unworthy to approach Jesus.

**Thought 1.** It is the sense of unworthiness and hopelessness that touches the heart of Jesus; it is not being shy and fearing embarrassment. Being shy and fearing embarrassment are only the attitudes that create a sense of unworthiness and hopelessness. Jesus accepts any of the hopeless who truly come to Him, no matter what causes their sense of unworthiness.

**Thought 2.** Embarrassing matters, personal matters, secret matters — all are understood by Christ. He wishes no one to suffer ridicule or shame. He will accept the shy, quiet approach that comes to Him.

**Thought 3.** There are personal, embarrassing matters that we all wish to keep secret. These sometimes cause problems for us, serious problems that drive us to the point of hopelessness. Even a shy, embarrassed attitude that approaches Jesus will be acceptable. A sense of unworthiness and hopelessness touches His heart.

**Psa 34:18** *The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.*

**Psa 51:17** *The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.*

3. There is the expectant, believing attitude. Note that the hopeless woman believed “when she heard about Jesus.” She believed the gospel, that Jesus loved and cared and would make her whole. Note the thoughts of her mind, “If I just touch His clothes, I will be healed” (v. 28). She believed in her thoughts, in her heart. She believed two things: the gospel (what she had heard about Jesus) and the power of Jesus to make her whole.

**Thought 1.** The same expectant, believing attitude is essential for any person to come to Christ, whether hopeless or not. One must believe in the gospel and in the power of Jesus to make one whole.

**Mark 1:15** “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!”

**Rom 1:16** I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

**Mark 9:23** “If you can?” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for him who believes.”

4. There is the confessing attitude. Jesus had made the way easy for her. He had allowed her to be healed without embarrassment, but it was not enough to believe in secret. The secret disciple had to be brought to the point of confessing her faith.
- a. The healing had cost Jesus. Spiritual power had flowed out from Him into the woman. The expenditure of power took its toll, sapping His physical strength. Jesus felt power drain from His body. He turned and asked the pressing throng surrounding Him, “Who touched my clothes?”

**Thought 1.** Imagine the enormous amounts of power that flowed out from Jesus from the day of His baptism to the cross! Imagine the fathomless flow of power that flowed from the cross, covering believers of all generations. It is incomprehensible! Yet it is a fact — a fact that proclaims the love of the Son of God. He poured out all the power within His eternal being for mankind.

- b. The disciples were unaware of what it cost Jesus to minister. They were insensitive to the spiritual energy He was exerting. They were ignorant of what Jesus was doing:  
=> “He took up our infirmities, and carried our diseases” (Mt. 8:17; see Isa. 53:4).  
=> He was teaching that public confession of Him was essential.

The disciples were somewhat surprised at Jesus' question: “Who touched me?” He was completely surrounded by a mass of people. In their surprise, they asked Him why He was asking such a question in the midst of so many people. How could He possibly expect not to be touched?

- c. The woman confessed. When Jesus asked the question, the woman came up to Jesus “trembling with fear.” She had approached Him *being unclean* and had not requested permission to touch Him. But she had still been healed. Now she felt that she must

respond to His question and identify herself lest He rebuke her and reject her faith. She feared that somehow her healing might be reversed if she did not confess that she had touched Him. So “knowing what had happened to her, [she] came and fell at His feet, and told Him the whole truth.” It was difficult and embarrassing, but she did it.

**Mat 10:32** *“Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven.”*

**Luke 12:8** *“I tell you, whoever acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man will also acknowledge him before the angels of God*

5. The result is glorious. Jesus granted the request of the hopeless. “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering” (v. 34). The result was twofold. She received peace. The fear and trembling were taken away and she was flooded with peace. Second, she was freed and made whole both physically and spiritually.

**John 14:27** *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”*

**John 16:33** *“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”*

**Mat 8:13** *Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go! It will be done just as you believed it would.” And his servant was healed at that very hour.*

**Mat 9:29-30** *Then he touched their eyes and said, “According to your faith will it be done to you”; and their sight was restored. Jesus warned them sternly, “See that no one knows about this.”*

**Mark 9:23** *“If you can?” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for him who believes.”*

**John 5:24** *“I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.”*

**Rom 10:9-10** *That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.*

#### **IV. Mark 05:35–43 A Believing Approach**

The third scene is that of a ruler's believing approach. This approach always lays hold of Jesus. Jesus knows when a person truly believes. A believing approach involves one simple attitude, but there are also several attitudes that it does not involve.

1. There is not a fearful, despairing attitude in faith. Believing has nothing to do with fear or despair.
  - a. Note the devastating circumstance that occurred. While Jesus was still talking with the woman, someone came from Jairus' home with terrible news: his daughter was dead. Imagine the trauma — how Jairus felt. How anxious he must have felt with the pushing

and shoving and slow movement of the crowd. How nervous he must have become as Jesus stopped to handle the matter with the haemorrhaging woman. If Jesus had just hurried, He could have reached his daughter in time. Jairus was devastated, crushed, fearful and despairing. Now it was too late. He was helpless; all hope was gone.

- b. Note: the challenge of Jesus is the answer to all fear and despair: "Don't be afraid; just believe." (See *Faith and Fear*, Mk. 5:36.)
2. There is not a wailing, whining attitude in faith. Believing has nothing to do with such an attitude. Society and others may engage in and encourage wailing and whining; they may feel and say that nothing can be done now. That all one can do is to bear up under the weight and tragedy of the loss.

However, the answer to any circumstance, mild or tragic, is not wailing and whining. The answer is Jesus' *comfort* and *assurance*. Even if the circumstance is death, Jesus comforts and assures: "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep." (v. 39). There is hope of the resurrection, which is a living fact, a living event that is to take place soon. In addition, there is hope of eternal life, of never dying, of being transported into the very presence of God upon passing from this life (Jn. 5:24-29; 11:25-26. See *Deliverance from Death*, 2 Tim. 4:18.)

**John 5:24-25** "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live."

**John 11:25-26** Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

**2 Tim 4:18** The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

3. There is not a sarcastic, sceptical attitude. The mourners laughed Jesus to scorn (Mt. 9:23-26).
4. There is an obedient attitude, an attitude that believes and follows Jesus. Note that the parents did exactly as Jesus said: they removed the guests and followed Jesus into the room where their dead daughter was. They obeyed Him despite the sarcasm and scepticism of others.

**Thought 1.** A believing faith often requires bearing abuse, sarcasm and persecution to follow Jesus. Conquering the impossible requires great faith, and often it requires standing all alone against everyone else.

5. Jesus granted the believer's request. Jesus demonstrated His great love and amazing power. He raised Jairus' daughter. He showed that He cared for the man and the family who approached Him in belief and trust.

The family, of course, was amazed, as anyone would be. But note the *thoughtfulness* of Jesus. He told the family to tell no one what had really happened in order to protect them from an immediate onrush of sightseers. And He showed a tenderness by telling them to give their daughter something to eat.

**Thought 1.** *Stubborn faith* is desperately needed by many parents on behalf of their children. However, note what must precede stubborn faith: a desperate faith that forgets and denies self and that seeks Jesus no matter the cost. Difficult cases require both a desperate faith and a stubborn faith. It is such faith that receives the *great* reward.

**Mat 17:20** *He replied, "Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."*

**Mark 11:22-24** *"Have faith in God," Jesus answered. "I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."*

**Luke 8:50** *Hearing this, Jesus said to Jairus, "Don't be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed."*

**2 Chr 20:20** *Early in the morning they left for the Desert of Tekoa. As they set out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Listen to me, Judah and people of Jerusalem! Have faith in the Lord your God and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets and you will be successful." ■*

### MARK 05:36 FAITH AND FEAR

*Ignoring what they said, Jesus told the synagogue ruler, "Don't be afraid; just believe." Mark 05:36*

Fear is the opposite of belief. Believing God eliminates fear. Believing that God actually cares and will deliver one through any and all circumstances of life erases fear. If God does care, there is nothing to fear. However, if one does not believe that God cares, then fear is present. Why? Because there is no one beyond man to help, and man's help is limited — very limited. There are many times in life when man's help is not enough, or even close to being enough. Therefore for the unbelieving man, there are all kinds of things to fear: unfortunate circumstances, bad health, accident, loneliness, death, the loss of anything and everything — family, profession, friends, business, home. □

## 2 TIMOTHY 04: 18 DELIVERANCE FROM DEATH, ETERNAL LIFE

*“The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”*

**2 Timothy 04:18**

The phrase “will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom” is a picture of God transporting Paul right through this world into the next world. It is the picture of time — of unbroken time. God preserves Paul right through time into eternity. In one moment of time, Paul is living in this world, conscious and aware; but within the same moment — in a split second — he is transported into God’s heavenly kingdom. That one moment of time happens quicker than the blinking of an eye (11/100 of a second). Just imagine! There is no loss of consciousness, no experience or awareness of death. One moment Paul is a citizen of this world, and within the same split moment he stands before the Lord as a citizen of His kingdom (2 Cor. 5:6-8). It is the beautiful picture of the believer never having to taste death. (See Col. 3:1-4; Heb. 2:9; cp. 2 Cor. 5:5-8.) □