

Jairus' Daughter (Luke 8:40-42, 49-56)

1. How good is your observation? Who was Jairus? Who went into the room with Jesus?

2. Was this a resurrection?

3. Why did Jesus tell them not to tell anyone what had happened? Specifically, why did Jesus did not want people to know that it was He who brought the little girl back to life?

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Teacher Notes

Video Abstract (Author: Max7.org): The account of Jesus healing Jairus' daughter shows us that Jesus is the Lord of life and death. This lovely animation is suitable for all ages from very young children through to families.

Read the following passages:

So it was, when Jesus returned, that the multitude welcomed Him, for they were all waiting for Him. And behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue. And he fell down at Jesus' feet and begged Him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter about twelve years of age, and she was dying. But as He went, the multitudes thronged Him. (Luke 8:40-42, NKJV)

While He was still speaking, someone came from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, "Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the Teacher."

But when Jesus heard it, He answered him, saying, "Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well." When He came into the house, He permitted no one to go in except Peter, James, and John, and the father and mother of the girl. Now all wept and mourned for her; but He said, "Do not weep; she is not dead, but sleeping." And they ridiculed Him, knowing that she was dead.

But He put them all outside, took her by the hand and called, saying, "Little girl, arise." Then her spirit returned, and she arose immediately. And He commanded that she be given something to eat. And her parents were astonished, but He charged them to tell no one what had happened. (Luke 8:49-56, NKJV)

For the teacher's reference, Mark records the account as well:

Now when Jesus had crossed over again by boat to the other side, a great multitude gathered to Him; and He was by the sea. And behold, one of the rulers of the synagogue came, Jairus by name. And when he saw Him, he fell at His feet and begged Him earnestly, saying, "My little daughter lies at the point of death. Come and lay Your hands on her, that she may be healed, and she will live." So Jesus went with him, and a great multitude followed Him and thronged Him. (Mark 5:21-24)

While He was still speaking, some came from the ruler of the synagogue's house who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?"

As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not be afraid; only believe." And He permitted no one to follow Him except Peter, James, and John the brother of James. Then He came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and saw a tumult and those who wept and wailed loudly. When He came in, He said to them, "Why make this commotion and weep? The child is not dead, but sleeping."

And they ridiculed Him. But when He had put them all outside, He took the father and the mother of the child, and those who were with Him, and entered where the child was lying. Then He took the child by the hand, and said to her, "Talitha, cumi," which is translated, "Little girl, I say to you, arise." Immediately the girl arose and walked, for she was twelve years of age. And they were overcome with great amazement. But He commanded them strictly that no one should know it, and said that something should be given her to eat. (Mark 5:35-43, NKJV)

Watch the video.

1. How good is your observation? Who was Jairus? Who went into the room with Jesus?

The objective here is to develop the reading / listening skill of observation. Jairus was the ruler of the synagogue – a high ranking Jewish leader.

In the room of the daughter, there were only 5 people with Jesus: the disciples Peter, James, and John, and the parents. They were the only ones who witnessed what happened.

2. Was this a resurrection?

The objective here is to help the student recognize that this was not a resurrection. The Bible defines a resurrection as a person's spirit being rejoined with a non-earthly body – a body that cannot die again (Rev 20:4-6). This event would be called a restoration or resuscitation.

3. Why did Jesus tell them not to tell anyone what had happened? Specifically, why did Jesus did not want people to know that it was He who brought the little girl back to life?

But Jesus said, "Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me." Now when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before Him, she declared to Him in the presence of all the people the reason she had touched Him and how she was healed immediately.

And He said to her, "Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace."

While He was still speaking, someone came from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, "Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the Teacher."

But when Jesus heard it, He answered him, saying, "Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well."
(Luke 8:46-50, NKJV)

Help the student see that understanding the context of events may help one fully understand what is happening. Take the time to question, encourage their observations, and explore the validity of their interpretations.

Just before the restoration of Jairus' daughter, the woman, who suffered from bleeding, was healed by touching Jesus, and He commended her faith.

The woman believed that Man before her was the Messiah and had no doubt that He could heal her (Mark 5:28).

Did the parents express such faith? In contrast, there is no mention that the parents believed that Jesus could restore their daughter and perhaps they shared the same skepticism as the crowds (Mark 5:40; Luke 8:53). So when Jesus restores the daughter, He could not commend them for their faith. And the 5 people with Jesus all saw that He brought her back from death, which is something only God could do.

If the ruler of the synagogue told everyone what Jesus did, Jesus would be arrested for blasphemy (saying that Jesus is God) and the ruler would be the witness against the Man who saved his daughter. Blasphemy was punishable by death and was the charge Jesus admitted to when it was time to fulfill God's plan for Him (Matt 26:62-66).

For the disciples present, the restoration was additional proof that Jesus was the Messiah Son of God.