

Jesus Heals Jairus' Daughter

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Scene Summary

Jesus heals Jairus' daughter tells the story of the faith of the synagogue ruler and how his daughter was brought back to life by Jesus. Scenes include: Jesus and His disciples sailing toward shore...the boat pulled up on shore...Jesus talks to the crowd awaiting them...Jarius pushes through the crowd...he begs Jesus to heal his sick daughter...a servant brings the news of her death...Jesus, Peter, James, and John go home with Jarius...neighbors and friends are mourning...Jesus sends the people away...he goes with parents to the girl's room...Jesus speaks to her and lifts her hand...the girl "awakens"...the parents rejoice.

Scripture

(Mark 5:21-24 NIV) When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. {22} Then one of the synagogue rulers, named Jairus, came there. Seeing Jesus, he fell at his feet {23} and pleaded earnestly with him, "My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live." {24} So Jesus went with him. A large crowd followed and pressed around him.

(Mark 5:35-43 NIV) While Jesus was still speaking, some men came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue ruler. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher any more?" {36} Ignoring what they said, Jesus told the synagogue ruler, "Don't be afraid; just believe." {37} He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. {38} When they came to the home of the synagogue ruler, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. {39} He went in and said to them, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep." {40} But they laughed at him. After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. {41} He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha koum!" (which means, "Little girl, I say to you, get up!"). {42} Immediately the girl stood up and walked around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. {43} He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.

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Players

- **Narrator** – The play's "catechist" or teacher should be a good reader with a clear voice.
- **Jesus** – God's One and Only Son.
- **Jairus** – A person of respect and authority, but very worried about his daughter.
- **Servant** – A small, but important role.
- **Mother** – Filled with grief, then overwhelming joy when her daughter is healed.
- **Person 1, 2** – Part of the crowd that follow Jesus.
- **Disciple 1, 2** – More disciples can be added as needed.
- **Daughter** – A lifeless corpse.

Special Props

- Normal items from the prop box such as cloaks, veils, robes and headdresses.
- A sheet to cover the daughter.

Script – Jesus Heals Jairus's daughter

[Opening scene, Jesus getting out of the boat, and there are many people. Jesus meets Jairus.]

Narrator: Jesus and His disciples rode out on the Sea of Galilee. They were quiet as they listened to the slap of waves on the side of the small boat.

Disciple 1: Look at the crowd!

Narrator: They worked to pull the boat into shore.

Disciple 2: Lord, you will get no rest today. Many people have come to hear you teach about God and there are probably many sick people here who hope you will make them well.

Narrator: Men and women, children too, wanted to get close to Jesus. They wanted to see the great teacher and hear what he would tell them.

Person 1: Here comes Jairus, the ruler of the synagogue. He looks worried.

Jairus: [very concerned voice] My daughter is very ill and near death. Will you come and make her well? She is my only daughter.

Jesus: Yes, I will come.

Narrator: Before the men had gone very far, they saw a servant running towards them. He rushed up to Jairus:

Servant: Master, your daughter is dead. Why trouble the great teacher any more?

Jairus: [bows head in tears] O, my daughter! She was just 12 years old.

Jesus: [comforting] Do not be afraid Jairus. Only believe. Come, let us go to the child.

Narrator: The men continued on their way to Jairus' house.

Servant: [questioning to himself] Why go now? The child is dead. It is too late. He cannot help her now.

[Scene change to Jairus' house.]

Narrator: Neighbors and friends had already arrived at Jairus's house. Jesus looked at the mother and the other women that were crying.

Jesus: Why do you cry? The child is not dead, but sleeping.

Narrator: The people were startled. They looked at one another and at Jesus.

Person 2: He hasn't even seen the child. Yet he says she only sleeps.

Narrator: The people laughed at Jesus.

Jesus: [to the mourners] Please go outside.

Narrator: Everyone looked at Jairus. Would he let this man send them out?

Jairus: [nodding to the people and helped them into the courtyard]

Jesus: Come, you and your wife, let us go and see the child.

Narrator: The mother lead the way and Jesus motioned for Peter, James and John to follow them.

Jairus: [to himself] We are too late.

Narrator: Jairus squeezed his wife's hand. She was crying softly. Jesus tenderly looked at the child lying on the bed.

Jesus: [taking the child's hand] Little girl, I say to you get up.

Narrator: The girl's eyelids moved, she blinked her eyes. Then she looked up at Jesus. She got up, out of bed and slowly walked toward her parents.

Jairus: [filled with surprise and joy]

Mother: [reaches out to her daughter and cried for joy] Are you alright?

Daughter: [laughing] Of course!

Jesus: She is probably hungry. You should give her something to eat.

Narrator: There was great joy in that family because Jesus was their friend and helper.

The End

Supplemental Information:

Jairus lived with his wife and daughter in the city of Capernaum. He was the ruler of the synagogue in the city. Jairus led the Jews in worshiping God in the synagogue or church. Week by week he selected the men who would lead the prayer, read the Scriptures, and preach.

In the synagogue, normally towards the back of a raised area, in a prominent place, there is a special container called the *ark* that held the Scripture scrolls. The Old Testament books that Jesus used were all handwritten on fine sheepskin and rolled for storage and easy handling. The Scriptures are reverently and carefully removed from the ark and transferred to the center of the room, to a platform called a *bema*. Here the scripture was read to the people. Then with great care and worship, the Scripture was then returned to the ark. Usually services were held each Sabbath, or Saturday. Each service had five parts:

1. The *Shema* or prayer was read from Deuteronomy 4:4-9 and 11:13-21, and Numbers 15:37-41
2. Special memorized prayers were recited, usually in songs as part of worship.
3. A part of the Law was read from the book of the Pentateuch (first five books of the Bible).
4. Some verses from the Old Testament prophets were read, and the preacher gave a sermon or talk about them.
5. The benediction ended the service, again with songs of worship.

Reflection questions

- Have you ever gone on a boat ride? Jesus and His disciples often traveled by boat. Usually it was a fisherman's boat like one.
- When they came to shore they saw a crowd of people. Why do you think the people wanted to see Jesus?
- Jairus heard that Jesus was in town and he hurried to meet him. Jairus was the ruler in the synagogue, the Jewish church. He was an important leader in the town of Capernaum.
- Jairus had only one daughter and she was very, very sick. Why did Jairus want Jesus to go and see her?
- Jairus' servant ran to meet the men. What sad news did he tell Jairus?
- Since the girl was already dead, why do you think Jesus went to Jairus' house?
- Jesus and some of the disciples walked with Jairus. The servant followed them. What did the servant think Jesus would do? What might Jairus have thought?
- In Bible days a person was buried the same day as he or she died. To show their sadness, the family hired mourners—people to cry loudly. When Jairus got home the mourners were already there.
- What did Jesus say to the girl's mother? The people looked very surprised. What were they thinking?

- When Jesus told the people to go outside, they were very surprised. Perhaps they wondered why Jairus let Jesus tell him to go. Shouldn't Jairus let them stay?
- Jesus wanted the parents' to go with him to see the girl. Do you think Jairus wished that Jesus could have come sooner?
- In those days, a dead person wasn't placed in a casket. The body was placed on a cot. Later it would be carried to a special cave where it would be placed and the doorway fastened tightly.
- Perhaps the parents wondered what Jesus would do. What did they hear Jesus say? What happened to the girl?
- When their daughters stood up and walked toward them, do you think her parents were surprised? They believed that Jesus could make a sick person well, but they didn't think He could bring life to a dead child.
- What a happy family. How do you think they felt toward Jesus? How do you feel when He answers your prayers?