

ECHO CHURCH
No Games. No Gimmicks. Just God.

Believe Again

What some people call dead, God calls asleep

Worship & Word | Year 1, Month 9, Week 3

Sunday, September 20, 2026

THE ANCHOR TEXT

Mark 5:21 through 24 and 35 through 43 NKJV

"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."

"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."

THE HEART OF IT

Weak is not dead. And where there is still life, there is still purpose.

The issue is not whether God can move. The issue is whether you will believe again.

INTRODUCTION

There are moments when our environment, our circumstances, and if we are honest even our own lives are not going the way we thought or believed they should. The thing we love and the thing we are praying for seems to have gone off the script. It is not that God is too busy. We just hit the moment that asks, God, what am I supposed to do now?

Here we have Jesus, Jairus, and a multitude. Jairus sees Jesus and falls at His feet. There is something about a moment where, even though I have a problem, my problem no longer has the authority to prevent me from giving God my attention. At His feet, Jairus's title as ruler of the synagogue is not the point. God, this is personal.

When you have history with God, when you have seen what He can do, when you have experienced what you have read, you do not need a special service to worship. You do not need the best clothes. You are not waiting for the perfect moment. Every opportunity to worship becomes the foundation for everything that follows. This is not about the right environment or the right entertainment making God respond. It is about a pure heart and the correct posture.

Jairus is honest with Jesus. His daughter is at the point of death. The final stage. The critical stage. But notice the words. She is at the point of death, but she is not dead. Too often we become so fixated on the potential of something not working that we have already begun preparing the funeral program, deciding who is doing the eulogy and who is bringing the food. We go to God prepared for a burial when there is still life. That is the invitation of this whole passage: believe again.

MOVEMENT ONE: CANCEL THE FUNERAL PROGRAM

Mark 5:22 through 24 NKJV

"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."

Jairus did not come to Jesus with a death certificate. He came with a report that said point of death. That is a critical condition, but it is not a closed casket. There is a difference between something that is struggling and something that is finished, and too many believers have lost the ability to tell the two apart. We have already chosen who will do the eulogy, who will sing, and who is bringing the food. We have printed the program for things God has not buried.

Some of us are grieving a marriage that still has breath in it. Some of us have written off a ministry, a calling, a dream, or our own faith because it has been weak for a long time. But weak is not dead. And where there is still life, there is still purpose. Where there is purpose, there is a plan. God knows exactly what He is doing. The issue is not whether God can move. The issue is whether you will believe again.

Notice the full prayer Jairus prayed. He did not stop at that she may be healed. He kept going: and she will live. Healing restores what was broken, but living means it moves forward with purpose. This week, name the thing you have been preparing to bury. Write it down. Beside it, write two words: Still Living. Then pray the whole prayer. God, lay Your hands on it. Heal it, and let it live.

Stop planning the funeral for what God is still breathing on.

<i>Healing is where God meets you. Living is where God sends you. Do not settle for the first when He is offering both.</i>

MOVEMENT TWO: LET GOD HAVE THE LAST WORD

Mark 5:35 through 36 NKJV

"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."

Jairus did everything right. He worshipped. He prayed. He got a word. Jesus was walking with him. Then a woman who never asked a question and never prayed a prayer touched the hem of His garment and received what Jairus was still waiting on. And while he watched her testimony unfold, his own bad news arrived. Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?

That report was not just information. It was an invitation to quit. Fear said, you are wasting your time following something that no longer has life. Culture said, move on, this is what she would have wanted. But faith said, we are going to see this through. And before the report could settle in his spirit, Jesus answered it. As soon as He heard it, He spoke. He did not address the grief. He did not explain the delay. He simply said, do not be afraid; only believe.

The voice of God has to be louder than the voice of the unbeliever. The unbeliever says she is dead. God says only believe. The unbeliever says call the funeral home. God says do not be afraid. So when the next report comes, whether a diagnosis, a denial letter, or a phone call you did not see coming, build this discipline into your life. Before you tell anyone, before you post it, before you plan around it, speak back what God has said. The voice you answer last is the voice you will follow.

Somebody else getting their miracle is not proof that God forgot yours.

You may be angry. You may be heartbroken. But you do not have to be afraid. Only believe.

MOVEMENT THREE: CLEAR THE ROOM AND FEED THE MIRACLE

Mark 5:38 through 43 NKJV

"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."

When Jesus walked into that house, the mourners were crying. The moment He said she was only sleeping, they started laughing. Same people, same room, same moment, and their emotions flipped. That is proof that God changes environments. But notice what Jesus did next. He did not argue with the laughter. He removed it. He put them all outside and took only the father, the mother, and His own people into the room.

Everyone who cries with you cannot come in with you. Some people are sincere in your pain but will ridicule your faith. Before God raises what you are believing Him for, He may need to clear the room. Look honestly at who has access to your hope. Who speaks life over it, and who keeps asking why you are still bothering the Teacher? Protect the room where your miracle is lying.

Then watch what happens after she rises. Jesus tells them to give her something to eat. The miracle was not the end of the assignment. It was the beginning of a new responsibility. If God brings your prayer life back, feed it daily. If He restores your relationship, invest in it. If He resurrects your calling, give it structure and discipline. What God raises, we are responsible to sustain.

What some people call dead, God calls asleep. And what God wakes up, you have to feed.

God handles the resurrection. You handle the nourishment.

CLOSING

Jairus shows us how to bring a struggling thing to Jesus before we bury it. In the first movement we cancel the funeral program, because weak is not dead. In the second we let God have the last word, because His voice must be louder than every report that tells us to quit. And in the third, once He raises it, we clear the room and feed the miracle, because what God wakes up, we are responsible to sustain.

- Movement One. Cancel the Funeral Program. Weak is not dead.
- Movement Two. Let God Have the Last Word. His voice must be the one you answer last.
- Movement Three. Clear the Room and Feed the Miracle. Protect it, then sustain it.

Your faith, your prayer life, your relationship, your calling may have been at the point of death. But God, lay Your hands on it. Not just so I can say He touched me, but touched me and I am healed, and not only healed, but now I live.

A CLOSING WORD

Do not plan a funeral for what still has breath in it. The report only gets the last word if you quit believing before God is finished.

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