

## The Sufficiency of Christ Pt. 2

Mark 5:35-43 (02/22/15)

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Mark takes us right back to Jesus' side in Mark 5:35-43. Jairus came running up to Jesus, kneeling before Him and begging Him to come to his house and heal his dying 12 year old daughter! Jairus is at an impossible situation in his life. He cannot keep his daughter alive; yet he loves her so much. He doesn't want to lose her! And he has come to the only Person on earth who can keep her from dying, but Jesus has been sidetracked taking care of another person who was at her wits end with a 12-year flow of blood! What is Jairus going to learn about Christ's sufficiency in his impossible situation?

### **God brings impossible situations into your life that push you to Christ.**

They are beyond your power and ability. They are impossible situations humanly speaking. That's exactly what is happening here. You see it throughout the Bible. The Red Sea! Jericho! Goliath! 186,000 Assyrians circling Jerusalem! Mark tells of the storm, the demons, the 12-year flow of blood, a 12-year-old daughter on the edge of death. You see it as they lay Jesus' body in the tomb and His followers are in mourning. There is nothing so impossible as death. Man is absolutely helpless.

In your life, you may be facing some seemingly impossible situation. It could be a marriage, a relationship that just doesn't seem to ever improve. It could be an addiction that keeps plaguing you and luring you and you just can't seem to conquer it. Or some kind of condition that keeps you in a dark place. Maybe extreme loneliness or a sense of purposelessness. Or even a strong sense of guilt and a paining conscience over something you did and simply can't make right. You may have tried all the world offers, but like the woman with the blood flow, nothing has helped.

God brings impossible situations into your life to push you to Christ and to find that He really is sufficient for all these things. He never fails. Can He bring Israel through the Red Sea? Can He knock down those walls of Jericho? Can He enable David to whack Goliath right between the headlights? Can He destroy an army of 186,000 without Israel lifting a sword? Can He calm storms and demonized people, stop a 12-year blood flow, bring a daughter to life, and best of all, can He rise from the dead and once and for all abolish death and bring life and immortality to life through the gospel? What about with you? Is He sufficient for your situation?

That's exactly what is happening here. Is Christ sufficient for Jairus' impossible and desperate situation? His daughter is sinking into death. And he comes running, kneeling, and crying out to Jesus to come and heal her! He believes He can. He's come to the right place. Let me assure you, that whatever tough situations are going on in your life, God has brought it to you to push you to Christ and His sufficiency for your need. His grace is sufficient, for His power is made perfect in weakness, and like Paul in Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through the One who infuses His strength into my life."

Remember what happened...

*Mark 5:22-23 One of the synagogue officials named Jairus came up, and on seeing Him, fell at His feet and implored Him earnestly, saying, "My little daughter is at the point of death; please come and lay Your hands on her, so that she will get well and live."*

Just a note about Matthew 9:18, where Jairus says, "My daughter has just died." So is she dead or almost dead? The Greek language in Matthew may be translated, "My daughter has just come to the end." The word isn't the normal word for died, but come to the end. Plus, Matthew doesn't tell about the messengers coming up and telling Jairus his daughter is dead. Matthew may be compressing the account. Both Matthew and Mark do let us know, Jairus' daughter is dead and his hope is desperately in this One man who can help him.

## God lets you know that Christ is your only hope.

*Mark 5:35, While He was still speaking, they came from the house of the synagogue official, saying, "Your daughter has died; why trouble the Teacher anymore?"*

Two things are happening here. Jesus seems to be delaying as He talks with the lady. God does that sometimes. He lets us squirm a little in our need. He may be teaching us patience, or that He is God and not in a hurry. With God there are no real crises. He may be letting Jairus learn that other people have needs too. Martyn Lloyd-Jones in his sermons on Habakkuk writes, "God sometimes answers our prayers by letting things get much worse before they become better."

Second, unbelieving friends come up to Jairus and say, "Forget it, it's too late, your daughter is dead." Worse words a loving father could never hear. All hope must have instantly drained out of Jairus heart. "You may as well let the Teacher alone. It's over." They've even made funeral arrangements, as we'll see.

The death of a loved one is a heart-crushing experience. Whether it's a young son or daughter, or a parent, spouse or friend, we all have to deal with death. One of Job's miserable comforters Bildad described it like this in Job 18:14, "He is torn from the security of his tent, And they march him before the **king of terrors.**"

King of terrors, that's what death is. Oh, the recent mourning of the families of those 21 beheaded Coptic Christians! The Bible calls death our last enemy. Sin brought death, and everyone faces death and then God. It's appointed unto man once to die, and then face the judgment (Hebrews 9:27). Where will you spend eternity? If it wasn't for Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God, who came to earth to die in our place and destroy him who had the power of death, the devil, we would be in a dreadful situation with no hope.

But Jesus Christ did come! He did die in the place of sinners. He did rescue us from the prison of death. He ripped the stinger out of death and assures us that, though we will all probably go through death, and though we will grieve when we lose a loved one, we don't grieve as others who have no hope. This is an impossible situation, death, and God wants you to know that Jesus Christ is your only hope! Jesus is the exclusive answer to death! There simply is no other. No other religion has an empty tomb where its founder was laid, unless they lie and talk about strange ascensions.

It's George Washington's birthday, born February 22, 1732. He was truly a great man in our nation's beginning, leading troops to victory and freedom. He died December 14, 1799. I was interested in how he faced death. He was only 67 and came down with an infection. Doctors took blood four times, but it merely weakened him. The doctors had no knowledge of how to treat him. Near the end he said, "I die hard, but I am not afraid to go." But he had read of men thought to be dead who were actually buried alive, and it frightened him. He insisted in his last gasps of life, "Do not let my body be put into the vault in less than three days after am I dead. Do you understand me?" His last words were, "Tis well." We do hope he truly knew Christ as His Savior.

When facing death like this, Christ is your only hope. Only Christ rose again triumphantly over death and the grave. No human can go through death with you, but Christ has promised to never forsake you and to go through the valley of the shadow death with you! And when we lose a loved one, instead of running away from God, like some do, we should run to Christ. A friend and I recently chatted with a server about this very issue. Her daughter in her 20s with a couple of children was burned to death in a house fire. We tried to urge her to Christ and that God is good.

Listen to this. Revelation 21:4, "and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

## **Christ cares and responds to your situation.**

*Mark 5:36-37, But Jesus, overhearing what was being spoken, said to the synagogue official, "Do not be afraid any longer, only believe." And He allowed no one to accompany Him, except Peter and James and John the brother of James.*

So Jesus has been comforting this dear lady and time was slipping by, and Jairus was absolutely slain by the news that his daughter had died. It's done. It's over. Jairus is overwhelmed with this sense of utter hopelessness. But God's delays are always for our good and His glory.

Jarius stands there, perhaps with eyes cast down and shoulders bent over in sorrow. But Someone overhears that morbid message and immediately looks at Jairus, and maybe with His hand on his shoulder says, "Jairus, stop fearing. Trust Me. I've got this!" This is so good. Jesus knows everything. He understands Jarius' situation and thoughts. He also knows and understands your desperate situation. He's right in the middle of it, standing right there with you. And do you see how calm Jesus is? He doesn't get rattled. When you face these situations, don't panic, don't react in horror, don't go into totally losing-it crisis mode. There are no crises with God. Like Martyn Lloyd-Jones said, "We must not allow circumstances to tyrannize us. We must not allow circumstances to take a mallet and whack us all over the place." Philippians 4:6-7, "Be anxious for nothing!" Look to Christ, pray, and seek Him in your circumstances.

Then off they go, Jesus with three disciples and Jairus to his house. What do you learn here? Is Jesus sufficient for you? Lay out any situation or tragedy. Is Christ sufficient? Absolutely!

Does Jesus ever fail you? No! Jesus never fails! We sang that song last Sunday. An amazing story about that song comes from the sinking of the *Zamzam* in the south Atlantic on April 17, 1941. The *Zamzam* was an Egyptian ship that left harbor near New York City, sailed south to Brazil to avoid German ships, even though America was not yet at war with Hitler. As they sailed from South America toward Africa, a German ship fired over 50 shells at the *Zamzam*. Only nine hit their target, but the *Zamzam* went down. None of the over 200 souls perished. There were 144 missionaries on board. As they scrambled into life rafts, some had so many holes from shrapnel they sunk. One dear mother, Mrs. Danielson, watched her little ones bobbing in the deep Atlantic with life preservers, and called, "Be brave, kiddies. Never forget that Jesus loves you." The author of "Jesus Never Fails" reports that the passengers sang his song as they waited to be rescued by the German ship. Amazingly, the captain of that ship was a Christian man and had them all treated with honor and care. Jesus never fails! He has never failed you!

Does Jesus ever break His promises? No!

Does Jesus ever stop caring about what you are dealing with? No!

Jesus is saying to Jairus between the lines, "Don't listen to these people. Trust me and you will see the glory of God!" And there they go, Jesus with his three disciples and a father hoping against hope. But Jairus, you are walking with the Creator of the universe who upholds all things by His powerful word! You are walking with God and Man in one Person, the Theanthropic Person in hypostatic union! Christ is sufficient for you and is the Only One who can solve the "king of terrors" problem you are now facing. Ah, we are on a road to see amazing things!

## **Christ brings light and life into the doom and gloom of this world.**

*Mark 5:38-40, They came to the house of the synagogue official; and He saw a commotion, and people loudly weeping and wailing. And entering in, He said to them, "Why make a commotion and weep? The child has not died, but is asleep." They began laughing at Him. But putting them all out, He took along the child's father and mother and His own companions, and entered the room where the child was.*

The closer they get, the louder the cacophony, the wailing, the shrieking, the mourning, with flute players screeching out their noise – it's bedlam! These people were professional mourners. Even poor people

were expected to hire two flutists and one mourner, but Jairus was a man of means and probably had a large group here. One commentator said the women circled around a leader in a dance of death and with their hair hanging down they moved left and right with their hands and feet moving wildly and their faces becoming more flushed.

The Jews buried the dead quickly. Remember Ananias and Sapphira? The young men covered Ananias and carried him out, and three hours later came to do the same for Sapphira! Mourners at the grave side would keep wailing, hanging over the corpse begging for a request from the silent lips, beating their breasts, pulling their hair, and ripping their garments. The Jews even had regulations on just how to rip their garments.

And now, suddenly, light bursts into all this hopelessness and darkness! And Jesus stuns these mourners with saying, "She's sleeping." He knew she was dead. But what do they do? You can tell they are hired mourners because they immediately start laughing at Him, and not just a little. They responded with a mocking, jeering kind of laughing.

Before we go there, the Bible uses the word "sleep" of those who die, but it's describing the body lying there. It's a euphemism for death and the language of appearance. There is no question that when a believer dies he or she goes immediately to heaven. Jesus told the thief, "Today you'll be with me in Paradise." Paul said, "To live is Christ; to die is gain."

But here Jesus may be pulling their chain, kind of like He did with the disciples about Lazarus in John 11. He succeeded, because they start laughing at Him. They knew she was dead, and when you're dead, you're not coming back!

Unless, of course, Jesus shows up. This reminded me of all the fellows in their white coats and high technology who laugh at us for believing Genesis 1 and 2 about a seven-day creation and the God-ordained marriage arrangement between a man and woman. One Bible scholar recently said we Christians need to give up our seven literal day, early earth position on creation or the world will marginalize us and we'll lose credibility with them. I thought, of course they will marginalize us. That's what Jesus said would happen! They marginalized Christ himself right up to the cross, didn't they?

So, here's Jesus with these characters laughing at Him and He simply kicks them all out of the house. Kind of like the temple, where He threw out the money changers. "You people are outta here!" You've heard of wedding wreckers? Jesus is a funeral wrecker!

### **Christ is sufficient to bring life out of death!**

*Mark 5:41-43, Taking the child by the hand, He said to her, "Talitha kum!" (which translated means, "Little girl, I say to you, get up!"). Immediately the girl got up and began to walk, for she was twelve years old. And immediately they were completely astounded. And He gave them strict orders that no one should know about this, and He said that something should be given her to eat.*

Now we have something happening that only this Man from Nazareth can do. No one else can do this, period. Every one of these miracles, whether raising up dead people or giving sight and hearing and restoring arms and legs, all of these are snapshots of what God can and will do! And, they sing out the praises of this Man who is doing them! He is the Jewish Messiah who will return and bring universal healing and life to all of His people!

So watch Him closely as He moves toward this young lady on this bed. He could have just spoken the word, but He wants us to see how tender and loving and caring He is. He reaches out and takes her youthful, delicate hand into his strong, rugged hand. Here is your Lord. Enjoy this moment. Feast your soul on what your Lord Jesus Christ is really like. This same Man who will die in your place, rise from the grave, ascend to heaven and return one of these days, with this young cold hand in His hand of life and He simply says, in Aramaic, "Talitha Kum." His Word carries the authority of creation in it. His Word has the grace and power of life. And what happens? And how long does it take? *Instantly* her heart beats,

blood flows, her flesh warms, her face flushes, her eyes brighten! All done in an instant! And she stands up and starts walking right away. Jesus' healing doesn't need weeks of therapy. He doesn't need millions of years to do what He does! Luke says her spirit returned to her (Luke 8:55).

How thoughtful is Jesus? He doesn't just walk away, but commanded she should be given a nice sandwich, something she likes. And look at those others. The language here couldn't be stronger. They were absolutely blown away! "Completely astounded." That's our Lord! He's dazzling! He's no dry-as-dust religious statue in a lifeless religious museum! He comes into the darkness and the deadness of this world and shines brilliantly with powerful life. He is sufficient. And it is guaranteed that He'll never fail you if you come to Him like Jairus did, a desperate but believing man!

Jesus doesn't do His miracles to make a spectacle or stir up the mobs. So He urges them not to run out and announce it. He'll be leaving with his three disciples and you just have to wonder how they all celebrated at Jairus' house that night!

Let me ask you, what dazzles you about Jesus? Do you know His sufficiency in your life? And do you have this hope of your future resurrection and reunion with your believing loved ones? We grieve now, but not without hope! Christ defeated sin and death and promises life to all who call upon Him! "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved!"