

Weaving the Word

Jairus Joins the Party

June 25, 2017

Welcome to where we're learning how to join the party Jesus is throwing!

How did you find your way to Jesus' feet? Were there many roadblocks along the way?



We're having dinner with Jesus, His followers, a host of sinners, and a horde of religious rulers standing in the doorway, but refusing to join in. And, Jesus is explaining how the Bridegroom brings a new reality, like new wine, that requires them to stretch and expand to receive the new.



While he was saying this, a man named Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue, came and Seeing Jesus, fell at Jesus' feet, and knelt before him and pleaded earnestly with him, because his only daughter, a girl of about **twelve**, was dying [i.e. **had been battling death**¹]. and said, "**My daughter has just died**. But Please come and **put your hand on her**, so that she will be healed and she will live." – Matthew 9:18; Mark 5:23; Luke 8:41 NIV



So, how did *Jairus* find his way to Jesus feet? He had to get past a lot of roadblocks! It's quite a story when it's woven together. And, it all begins on the very big day before.



On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in **one of the synagogues**, [the one in Capernaum] and a [crippled] woman was there ... he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up ... the **synagogue ruler** said to the people, "There are six days for work. So **come and be healed on those days** [beginning that day at sunset] ... The Lord answered him, [and all the rulers who've come to Capernaum to meet, observe, and judge Jesus – at a public rally, a private brunch, and a private teaching in Jesus' house the next day] "You hypocrites! ... should not this woman, a **daughter of Abraham** ... be set free on the Sabbath ..." – Luke 13:10-17 NIV



He's saying: "Do you honor the Day of Rest by refusing your own daughter rest!" One of them, maybe the spokesman, is suffering a personal crisis. His own daughter is at death's door.²

¹ Luke's use of the *imperfect-tense* term, "*apothnēskō*", describes her dying as an ongoing process in the past.

² Mark (5:23) uses a present-tense term [*eschatōs*] that emphasizes her *process of dying up to this point*. It's similar to how we might say that someone was now at the end of their long battle with cancer.

But, with every religious ruler in town, (Lk 5:17-18) legalism and peer pressure paralyze Jairus ... at least, until sunset ... *he assumes*. **Jairus' first roadblock: coming to Jesus on our own terms.**

So, how does Jesus help him? **By leaving him stranded.** If we think we can out maneuver God, or slip one past Him, or pray it away later, **we fail to consider His loving discipline.**

That day when evening came, When Jesus saw the crowd around him, he gave orders to his disciples, to cross to the other side of the lake. Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was ... – Matthew 8:18; Mark 4:35-36a NIV



This sunset crowd consists of those in need who set other terms above Jesus' authority; and suddenly, He's gone, *as is their hope.*



But, don't worry. After a horrifying high-seas adventure, and a terrifying graveyard confrontation with a legion of demons, Jesus returns to Capernaum the next day. (Mk 4:41, 5:13, 21) Just after Jairus learns the hard way that **our own terms will never meet our deepest needs;** as he's left numb with guilt from betting his daughter's life on dead works ... *and losing.*



Roadblock #2: pushing past our buddies blocking the doorway. So, how's Jesus overcome *this*? By becoming our *only* hope. **By seeing Jesus as his only hope, Jairus can look past the barriers blocking his way.**



While he was saying this, a man named Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue, came and **Seeing Jesus, fell at Jesus' feet,** [in humility and sorrow] **and knelt before him** [in submission to His authority] **and pleaded earnestly with him,** [in recognition of His grace and mercy and compassion] to come to his house because his only daughter, a girl of about twelve, was dying [i.e. *had been battling death*]. and said, "My daughter has just died. But Please come and put your hand on her, so that she will be healed and she will live." – Mat 9:18; Mark 5:22-23; Luke 8:41-42 NIV



Jesus had just been telling the self-righteous Pharisees how the Doctor only comes for those who see their need; and, how you can't fast and mourn when the Bridegroom's in the house. (Mt 9:12, 15)

Then, during His bursting-wine parable, this synagogue ruler bursts in and basically blurts out: **"I need You to stop my daughter's funeral!"** He didn't interrupt; *that's* how Jesus made His point!

Jesus is never caught off guard. *We are.* He's not: "Right on time, Jairus," as he publically sobs and confesses his heart-breaking foolishness.

Roadblock #3: treating Jesus like a religion instead of a close relationship. It's a violation of Jairus' religious regulations for Jesus to come near, let alone *touch*, his dead daughter.

A priest must not defile himself by going near a dead person; [How's Jesus get past that one? Read on] **however**, if the dead person was his father or mother, son or daughter, brother or unmarried sister, then he may defile himself. – Ezekiel 44:25-27 NIV

And, just the very-big day before, Jesus had said:

“Whoever does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother.” – Mark 3:35 NIV

When we act on God’s will, we become immediate family.

So Jesus got up and went with him. and so did his disciples. A large crowd followed and pressed around him. – Matthew 9:19; Mark 5:24 NIV

Of course they *did!* This is *Jairus!* The *synagogue ruler!* Who just asked Jesus to come raise his daughter *from the dead!*



Just then a woman who had been **subject to bleeding for twelve years** and had spent all she had **touched the edge of his cloak**. She said to herself, “If I only **touch his cloak**, I will be healed.” At once Jesus realized that **power had gone out from him** ... and asked, “**Who touched my clothes?**” When they all denied it Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. – Matthew 9:20-21; Mark 5:26, 30-32; Luke 8:45 NIV

Roadblock #4: focusing on the outside rather than the inside.

The Law records this *exact condition* as unclean, and says **anyone touched by it, “even though he is unaware of it, when he learns of it he will be guilty.”** (Lev 15:25-27) And, *unable* to do what Jairus has asked Jesus to do. *How’s He gonna work that one out?* Well, the day before at brunch:

... the Pharisee, noticing that Jesus did not first wash before the meal, was surprised. Then the Lord said to him, “Now then, you Pharisees clean the **outside** of the cup and dish, but **inside** you are full of greed and wickedness ... **give what is inside the dish** [Jesus’ power had gone out from inside Him] **to the poor**, [like this woman who’d spent all her money] **and everything will be clean for you** ... but you neglect **justice** and the **love of God** [that comes from the inside. She doesn’t make Jesus *unclean*; He makes her *clean* by the power of love!]. – Luke 11:38-42 NIV

Why is Jesus so adamant about finding her, anyway? *For Jairus*. All the religious rulers are in town; and, Jesus knows there’s no way they’re getting to Jairus’ daughter without a showdown. **Roadblock #5** the worst yet: **standing up to those who try to turn us back**, after we decide to put our trust in Jesus. How’s Jesus overcome *that?* **By shoring up Jairus’ faith**. *Fast*. And, this woman’s testimony is just what the Doctor ordered!

[She] fell at his feet [like Jairus] and ... **told him the whole truth** [in front of Jairus, regarding her 12-year-old hopeless situation]. He said to her, “**Daughter, your faith has healed you**. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.” – Mark 5:33-34 NIV

And, *not a moment too soon*; because, the showdown is about to go down.



While Jesus was still speaking, some men came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue ruler. “Your daughter is dead,” they said. [Knowing full well that he knows this] “Why bother the teacher any more?” – Mark 5:35 NIV

Servants and messengers wouldn’t question the synagogue ruler this way; these are colleges and equals.

Their saying: “*You’re not thinking straight. You’re daughter just died. We understand. Leave Jesus be, and come back with us?*” And, someone with intimidating authority is with these guys.

“Your daughter is dead,” he said. [A huge funeral is *already underway with musicians*; (Mt 9:23) so, she was dead a good while before Jairus got to Jesus.] “**Don’t bother the teacher any more.**” **Hearing this**, Jesus said to Jairus, “**Don’t be afraid**; [Of what? Of all this is going to cost you. Of losing everything that has given you a sense of identity and belonging and value.] **just believe**, [in Me, like you see *this* “daughter” with her own 12-year-old hopeless situation, has] and she will be healed.” – Luke 8:49-50 NIV



The final roadblock is death itself. How’s Jesus gonna overcome that? Come on. He’s Jesus. **That’s His signature move.**

He took her by the hand [Everything is clean for those who offer God’s justice and love from within] and said, “My child, get up!” Her spirit returned, and at once she stood up. Then Jesus told **them to give her something to eat.** – Luke 8:54-56a NIV



Time to turn this wake into the Bridegroom’s banquet! So much for the self-righteous rules of his callous colleagues.



Who can fast at a time like this?!

And, this is how Jairus, now most likely a *former* ruler of the synagogue, came to offer his daughter a welcome-home meal, on a day of fasting, with his own “unclean” hands.

We all face the same roadblocks as Jairus:

- Approaching Jesus on our own terms**
- Breaking past whatever blocks our way**
- Treating Jesus like a religion instead of a relationship**
- Focusing on the outside rather than the inside**
- Standing up to those who try to turn us back**

So, how’s Jesus overcoming *all that*?