

# Weaving the Word

## *A Wake in Jairus' House*

July 16, 2017

*Welcome to where we're learning to love the truth!*



**Do you love the Truth?**

**How much?**

**How do you know?**



Jesus is on His way to a synagogue ruler's house to bring his dead daughter back to life. *Just the day before ...*

Jesus said, "This is a wicked generation. It asks for a miraculous sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah. – Luke 11:29b NIV



Why? I mean, if they're *seeking* and *asking*.

"Well, I've raised the dead, healed the sick, and cast out demons; and, they've denounced Me. **What more can I possibly do without violating their free will? They're not looking for faith; they're looking for a fight. I've given 'em enough signs; now, I'm giving 'em a choice.**"



And as we've seen, Jairus chooses to break rank and bow to Jesus during Matthew's dinner party.



... a ruler came and knelt before him and said, "**My daughter has just died.** [In fact, there's a full-blown funeral underway] But come and put your hand on her, and she will live." Jesus got up and went with him, and so did his disciples. Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. – Mt 9:17b-20 NIV



And, as we saw last week, Jairus needed this woman's witness at this very moment; because, a showdown is about to go down between Jairus-the-new-believer and his Pharisee adversaries.

... some men came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue ruler. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "**Why bother** the teacher any more?" **someone** [with more authority] came ... "Your daughter is dead," *he said.* "**Don't bother** the teacher any more." Hearing **this**, [and] Ignoring what **they said**, Jesus said to Jairus, "**Don't be afraid;** [Of what? Of them. And, of losing everything that's giving him a sense of identity and belonging and value] **just believe,** [In what? Jesus] and she will be healed." – Mk 5:35-36; Lk 8:49-50 NIV

**But, you must turn your back on your old rebellious identity.**

So, he devotes his allegiance to the authority of his new King and Kingdom reality. He may still *in their world*, but he's not of it!

**In your showdowns, do you resist whatever opposes your trust?**

Jesus' words to Jairus sound like God's words through Ezekiel.

The people to whom I am sending you are obstinate ... son of man, **do not be afraid of them or their words** ... though they are ***a rebellious house***. **You must speak my words** to them, whether they listen or fail to listen ... – Ezekiel 2:4-7 NIV

Jairus-the-Pharisee's house is filled with those who denounced Jesus, stood in His way, and mock what He says once He arrives.

When he arrived at the house of Jairus, He did not let anyone follow him **except Peter, James and John** [Why? This is where they live and work and have a reputation: James and John are the *sons-of-thunder*, and Peter is ... *well, Peter*] **and the child's father and mother** [who'll need strong support ... *if not protection*. They're opposing the guys who scheme to kill Lazarus when *he returns!*]. When they came to the home of the synagogue ruler, Jesus saw a commotion, all the people were crying and wailing loudly and mourning for her. When Jesus entered the ruler's house and **saw the flute players and the noisy crowd**, [Job speaks of those who trust a flute to ease their sorrow, saying: "*after I have spoken, mock on ... they send forth their children ... they make merry to the sound of the flute. They ... go down to the grave in peace. Yet they say to God, 'Leave us alone! We have no desire to know your ways.'*" (Job 21:3, 11-14)] **he said to them, "Why all this commotion and wailing?** ["You knew I was coming; and you know I raise the dead. So, why the wailing?" Because, **they'd rather have her dead than His help**. They'd rather make a *wake* for her, than *Him* make *her* awake] "**Stop wailing, "Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep."** But **they laughed at him knowing** that she **was dead**. [Why would they *laugh* at a *funeral*? Why not ask what He means? They *despise* Him] **After he put them all out**, [Remember when He cleansed *His Father's* house? Now He's cleansing *Jairus*] he took the child's father and mother and the disciples ... and he went in where the child was and **took the girl by the hand**, and said "Talitha koum!" (which means, "Little girl, I say to you, get up!"). **Immediately Her spirit returned**, and she got up. [As Jairus well knows: "*the spirit returns to God who gave it*" (Ecc 12:7)] **at once** the girl stood up and walked around (she was twelve years old). At this **they were completely astonished**. [Picture her **immediately, at once, standing up, gasping-in air**, and walking!] He gave **strict orders** not to let anyone know about this, not to tell anyone what had happened and told them to give her something to eat. **News of this spread through all that region.** – Mt 9:23-26; Mk 5:37-43; Lk 8:51-56 NIV

**Was Jesus lying when He said: "She's not dead but asleep?"**

And why would He give strict orders not to let anyone know about this when 10,000 people are waiting outside to see what He does?



Do you hear the Word calling: *“Make Me make sense.”*

Turns out, this event is the clearest working example of an eternal truth that **the rebellious are judged by the Word of God.**

Here’s how this working example works:

1. **Jesus speaks as the Father directs ... *in His Word.*** (Jn 12:47-49)

“You must speak **my words** to them, whether they listen or fail to listen” (Ezek 2:7)

2. And, **throughout Scripture, God refers to *death as sleep.***<sup>1</sup>

[For example] Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death ... – Psalm 13:3b NIV

So, was He *lying*? No! **He’s declaring the Word of Truth.**

3. But, **those who don’t know God’s Word won’t have ears to hear.**

“Son of man, receive into your heart **all My words** that I speak to you, **and hear with your ears.**” – Ezekiel 3:10 NKJ

[Jesus said] “As for the person who hears my words but does not **keep them**, [lit. **commit them to their trust**] **I do not judge him.** For I did not come to **judge** the world, but to **save** it. **There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him** at the last day. For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me **commanded** me **what** to say and **how** to say it.” [In His Word] – John 12:47-49 NIV

**Those who don’t know God’s Words are left to their own limited, self-centered, self-deceiving logic, and will ultimately be condemned by their own words as judged by God’s Word.**

“The good man brings good things out of the good **stored up** in him ... I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.” – Matthew 12:35-37 NIV

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. – Hebrews 4:12 NIV

**Self-centeredness dies *hard.*** You see, **we don’t believe what we see; we see what we believe.**

**That’s why we must constantly search *our* heart and *His* Word, storing up the good while repeatedly asking the Lord to reveal what our self-deceiving motives really are.**

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<sup>1</sup> See: Job 3:11-13; Psalm 90:5; Isaiah 26:19; Daniel 12:2; Matthew 27:52; John 11:11-14; 1 Thessalonians 4:15

Know what Jesus ordered 'em not to describe? *The details.*

“Don’t tell what you saw – *especially you*, little girl. They *know* you were dead. Let’s see if they deny the truth and decide you *were* asleep. Just tell ‘em two things.”



So, they revealed only two things that *only Matthew* records.

[Jesus] said, “Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep.” But they laughed at him. After the crowd had been put outside, he went in and [1] took the girl by the hand, and [2] she got up. News of *this* spread through all that region. – Matthew 9:23-26 NIV

What happened *inside* wasn’t revealed until Mark and Luke wrote about it *after Jesus’ death and resurrection*; till then everyone *outside* had to choose: **Did He restore her life, or wake her up?**

And, **they’ll condemn themselves if they choose to believe what they know to be false**, especially after mocking *Jesus* for it. “Well, I guess I was wrong about Jairus’ daughter *being dead* ... but, I sure wasn’t wrong about Jesus being Lord. Hey, whatever it takes to keep *me* on that throne!”

**He’s not about to force or coerce anyone to believe. In fact, He offers us reasons *not to believe* ... if that’s what we desire.**

They perish because **they refused to love the truth** and so be saved. For this reason **God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie** [that they desire to believe; because, you see, our free will requires an unreasonable alternative to the truth] and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have **delighted in wickedness**. – 2 Thessalonians 2:10b-12 NIV

Why do you suppose He told Jairus to give her something to eat? Well, that Ezekiel passage about the rebellious house goes on to say:

“... **listen to what I say to you**. Do not rebel like that rebellious house; **open your mouth and eat what I give you**.” ... – Ezekiel 2:8b NIV

Jairus and his house now serve the Lord. **So, it’s time to start *serv*ing the Lord, the Word, the True Bread of Life**. After all “*Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.*” (Mt 4:4)

**Do you love the truth? How much? How do you know? How do you know if someone loves a video game? Or a song? Or a book? Or a movie?** So, how do you know if someone loves the truth?

**At its core disbelief isn’t about knowledge; it’s about pride.**

Know why their eyes couldn’t see?

*They were closed.*