

Title: Heart of a Father

Key text: *Mark 5:21-43 – The story of Jairus*

There are many men that the world regards as great fathers, but they are considered great using world standards. And just like you and me, they also find themselves in situations beyond their control.

We need men who come to faith in Christ, men who are good examples to their children.

Summary of the story:

Jairus was a ruler of the synagogue – a much respected person – a high-ranking synagogue official – appointed by Jewish officials who opposed Christ's ministry – had only one daughter – was moved by his deep fatherly love and urgency to reach Jesus – found Jesus near the sea – fell before Jesus in desperation – implored Jesus to come to his house to lay His hands on his sick daughter so that she may be made well and live – they could have reached the house of Jairus quicker but Jesus was impeded by the crowds wanting His attention – Jesus had to stop for the woman with an issue of blood – people from Jairus's house came with the news that his daughter is dead – Jesus took the child by the hand and the girl arose and walked

This story teaches us to understand the depth of faith and devotion of Jairus to his family and to God.

Remarkable things about Jairus:

- **He put his family ahead of his own personal achievements.**

He was willing to risk all to get his daughter to Jesus. He put his position on the line and ran the risk of him losing his job, his friends and his status in the community.

- **He humbled himself.**

Mark 5:22 – *‘When he saw him, he fell at his feet.’*

It takes a lot of humility to fall at someone’s feet, especially for a leader like Jairus. While the pharisees were full of pride and self-righteousness, Jairus showed humility and faith.

James 4:6 – *“God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”*

- **He talked to Jesus about his child.**

Mark 5:23 – *“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.”*

To see a man bring his child to Jesus and to cry to Jesus over their child speaks so much about a

father's tender love to his very own and his faith and trust in God.

- **He was committed to get to Jesus.**

Jairus had to overcome several obstacles to get the help he needed for his child. He had difficulty getting to Jesus past the throng of people and there was delay caused by the interruption of the woman with an issue of blood. But he was committed and relentless to find his way to Jesus.

- **He respected Jesus and waited on Him.**

Jairus's honour for Jesus is evident by him not complaining when the woman with an issue of blood delayed them. Jairus's daughter was about to die yet his esteem for the Lord was more important. Imagine his desperation when Jesus stopped to give attention to someone else who also sought His healing. And in that moment, Jairus could only do one thing...wait!

- **He believed and trusted Jesus's Word.**

Mark 5:36 – *As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, “Do not be afraid; only believe.”*

Like Jairus, you might feel like you've waited on God until all hope was gone. This directs us to continue to focus our attention on God's promise

rather than the world around us. Faith is believing when it seems totally impossible to believe.

- **He received Jesus into his home.**

If you invite Jesus into your home, He comes. Jairus welcomed Jesus to his home even if Jesus would get to Jairus's house in His own timing. Jesus is never late. This delay would demonstrate Christ's power in a greater way – He has power over disease (like healing the woman with an issue of blood) and power over death (like raising Jairus's daughter to life)!

Takeaways:

- **Be desperate for God!**

To the dads, you are encouraged to actively demonstrate to your families that you need Jesus more than anything. Let them see you desperate for Him.

- **God will never reject you as you fight for your family.**

Mark 5:23 – *Jairus implored Jesus earnestly...*

Jairus fought for his little girl. He begged Jesus and wouldn't stop until Jesus did something about it.

We need fathers who are willing to fight and who will stand up and will not give up until they see their family are in a better place.

- **God is in control of your life and the lives of those you love.**

Trust God's timing and submit to God's wisdom.

- **God does not always work when we think He should.**

Delay does not mean denial. We may not always understand what God is doing in our lives but we must trust Him in those times when it seems that nothing is happening for our benefit at all.

- **Do not fear, only believe.**

This statement hinges on what Jesus said to Jairus in Mark 5:36, *“He said to the ruler of the synagogue, **“Do not be afraid; only believe.”***

Mark 9:23 – *“If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.”*

Jairus was great because he did the greatest thing a father can do.... **Jairus came to Jesus.**

Don't tell your children to pray, show them how to pray.

Don't tell your children to praise God, show them how to praise God.

Don't tell your children there is power in the Name of Jesus, show them there is power in the Name of Jesus!

The most privileged children in the world are:

- **those who have parents who will pray for them**
- **those with parents who will love and discipline them in accordance with God's Word**
- **those with parents who care about what happens to them, even when they're all grown up, married and with children**

There is application for all of us here. As we celebrate and appreciate the fathers in our lives, more importantly, may we all strive to emulate the qualities of love, sacrifice, and guidance that our Heavenly Father exemplifies for us all.

Why don't we all exercise our faith in the Lord. There may be something that we need from the Lord today. He is waiting for us as He was for Jairus.