

You can hear desperation in Jairus' voice, falling at Jesus, begging Him to come quickly to his home, **My little daughter is at the point of death. Please come, lay your hands on her, as you've done for so many, so that she would be well again. Please hurry, there isn't much time.**

Some people come from Jairus' house with the bad news. "**Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any more?** It's too late. She's gone." Those words must have stabbed deep into this father's heart. His precious little girl, dead. He had Jesus by the hand. If it wasn't for that crowd, they might have made it, so close. But now, too late.

Then a pivotal moment. Jesus looks into the eyes of Jairus, says, **Do not fear, only believe...** If it was only that easy. **Do not fear, only believe** when so much of life, hurt, loss, can come our way. **Do not fear, only believe**, easier said than done, we all have issues. If it was only that simple **Do not fear only believe, is that simple, when the one who's speaking, holds your life, keeps your life.** **Do not fear, only believe.** When your prayers seemly go unanswered. **Do not fear, only believe**, when the world, family, friends, authorities work against you and God's Word. **Do not fear, only believe.** When the doctor tells you there's nothing they can do. **Do not fear, only believe.** When every shred of hope is taken from you, when you're all alone in your struggles, your pain, your grief. When you face the reality of your own mortality, all the uncertainty every day brings.

Do not fear, only believe. When you stand at the grave of a departed loved one, you miss so much.

Even as adults, our desires in this life are pretty simple, though we often can't see them for the clutter of self-serving whims, our entertainment pursuits, our endless quest to banish boredom. All we want is: our beloved to love us; our children to outlive us; people to respect us. That's really it, in that order. I pray it be so for you, but whether life happens that way, or no matter what you face, **Do not fear, only believe.** No matter what.

What parent would not trade their life for their child's and die in their place. So that you would not die, Christ took your place. He did not create us to die. By grace, you won't -ever. For no one who believes in Him, who trusts in the merits of His suffering, death, resurrection, who rests in the mercy of the Almighty, who confesses Jesus as Lord, will ever die. Believers don't die. They fall asleep. Their souls go to heaven while their bodies sleep in the grave, waiting resurrection to come.

The child is not dead but asleep. Do you grasp the depth of that? Spoken by the Creator of the universe, God Himself, death is nothing more

than sleep for His children -who's afraid of going to sleep. These are words from One who has conquered death for you. Comforting to all who believe. The world still ridicules, laughs, mocks Christ and His Church. St. Paul write, **I do not want you to be ignorant, concerning those who have fallen asleep, we do not mourn as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.** There won't be any more ridicule, laughing on the Last Day. Christ will put the unbelievers outside again.

Consider what it means Jesus takes the hand of a corpse, lifts a person out of death. We've got these three enemies: sin, death, the devil; and Jesus is here to overcome them, destroy them. That miracle is just one little victory in the war Jesus is fighting against hell.

"Nemo resideo" Latin for "No one left behind." A critical part of Roman Legion morale. Greek mythology portrays heroes who rescued those captured by enemies. In the US Armed Forces, they don't leave anyone behind. It's one of the basic pillars of the Warrior Ethos: "I will never leave a fallen comrade." Our soldiers make a sacred commitment: no one left behind on the battlefield.

You are rescued from the enemy of sin and death; the devil cannot harm you. No one in our Lord's ranks, not one of His people in this Church militant, that is the church on this side of eternity; no one is left behind, the fallen are not left. A perfect, sacred commitment -He will not let the enemy have you. He fights for us. Every one of you so precious. Every single life matters. None of His own are ever lost. He binds up the fallen, the wounded, you bask in His healing, forgiveness, His gifts, His life given you, no less than Jairus' little girl.

Here is power for life. There is no circumstance in your life He is unaware of; or unable to help. Scripture declares you have a great cloud of witnesses, people, even loved ones who've gone before us, whom the Lord has helped beyond all human reasoning. There is no such thing as an impossible situation for your Lord. He has promised to work for your good. His Words still have power, still power to raise the dead, as with you. Ours is not a God of disappointment but of kept promises. He does what He promises; gives what He says He will give; will be where He has promised to be. He calls you by name, His address of affection, 'daughter' 'son' thus you have the strength to carry on. His bleeding, His dying, His rising, His praying, His cross and flesh joined to you -these are the things that make you Christian and makes these word real in your life. **Do not fear, only believe.**