

May 30 JAIROS' DAUGHTER: Self-differentiation D assisting; Mel online (her last Sunday); Pastoral Moment = Memorial Name video; June 1 = 100th anniversary of Race Massacre

The Bible in 5 words: CREATION FALL – Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned (Romans 5:12) Adam's sin had a tragic impact. Whereas Adam/Eve lived in harmony with God, each other, & creation; disharmony became the dominant note. They exited the Garden and sin unleashed spiritual, physical, and relational death. Sin brought other issues to us (including jealousy which led to the first murder when Cain killed his brother, Abel). In addition to calling the names of Asbury members, we need to acknowledge what happened in Tulsa 100 years ago was terribly wrong. While racism was not the original sin, it is a byproduct of it. Sin treats people in evil ways. Followers of Jesus are to treat all with respect. Bigotry was a problem in the early church they had to overcome. It's why Paul wrote: *There is neither Jew nor Greek, neither slave nor free, neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.* (Galatians 3:28) Their identity was "In Christ." *There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in X Jesus.* (Romans 8:1) Our identity not only changes us but helps us see others in a different light. Where do we get our identity? Where do we get our identity? Family, Friends, Education, Entertainment (hobbies, sports, travel), Career, Finances, Politics, etc. Becoming a Christian is finding our core identity in Christ.

ISRAEL – God raised up a special group of people to create as a witness to the world.

JESUS – the culmination of the witness of God.

CHURCH – to administer the Redemption of Jesus Christ for the world.

INTRODUCTION: Unlike the woman with the discharge of blood who spent all her money on medical treatments and was still in anguish, Jairus was at the top rung of his social ladder. Like Nicodemus, Jairus was wealthy, influential, and a respected ruler in the synagogue. He had life by the tail. But like the woman, he had a desperate need: his only child was dying. Most parents will do anything, anytime, anywhere for their kids. His distress brought him to his knees before Jesus. Then it got worse. While Jairus was pleading for help, he learns she died. Can you imagine his heartache? Jesus once again shows His mastery: *"She is not dead but sleeping"* (verse 52b).

We do not know who "they" were, but anytime someone tries to lead—sabotage and betrayal follow. Conspirators run together, so "they" snickered with derision, ridicule, and sarcasm. Ed Friedman wrote in a book, "A Failure of Nerve," how this plays out. People resist change in every sphere of life (sports, business, education, politics, the armed services, family, and ministry). Most of us prefer the status quo. We don't like people telling us we must change, grow, and improve or else we will become irrelevant. Jesus was a major change agent. Jesus' enemies sabotaged Him. The shock is that one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, did the same. We will read this week about the sabotage of leaders. Haters are gonna hate. Jesus knew how to shake it off.

APPLICATION: Have you ever tried to lead something but lost your nerve when people sabotaged you? Did you decide to quit leading or were you able to recover your nerve? Have you ever sabotaged another leader? What made you do it?

Luke 8:40-42a; 49-56

Now when Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed him, for they were all waiting for him. The Geresenes wanted him cast out of the region. They feared Jesus. This crowd followed Him.

⁴¹ *And there came a man named Jairus, who was a ruler of the synagogue.* He was a VIP in the community. He would select who read the scripture and lead in prayer and preach in the synagogue.

And falling at Jesus' feet, he implored him to come to his house, Jairus begged. Desperate people do extreme things.

⁴² *for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age,* The woman healed was sick for 12 years. 12 = Biblical number for completeness/perfection in rule. 12 tribes of Israel. 12 spies sent into the Promised Land. 12 Disciples. 12 sides to the Temple gates in Revelation. And 12 x 12 = 144. Add three 0's & perfect number of rule = 144,000. *and she was dying.* 42b has an interruption. Imagine Jairus' frustration. His daughter was dying, and Jesus was concerned because someone had touched him.

⁵³ *And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead.* This is the only time in the NT that it says someone laughed. It does show up with Sarah in the OT, when the angel told her she'd have a baby when she was 90 years old. She laughed. And then denied it. And that's what the name "Isaac" means – laughter.

⁴⁹ *While he was still speaking, someone from the ruler's house came and said, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher anymore."* ⁵⁰ *But Jesus on hearing this answered him, "Do not fear; only believe, and she will be well."* Jairus came to Jesus in desperation. When he learned of the miracle healing of the woman and the issue of blood, his hopes had to have soared. Then comes this news. Jairus probably didn't have love for Jesus before this miracle – he just had a great need and Jesus was his only chance. A desperate dad, a dying girl, a desperate woman, a delayed Jesus, a healed/believing woman, a dead girl, a living girl, a believing man. Jesus can do anything. He is sovereign! Nothing is too great for him. He can save our soul, restore our life or meet our most desperate need. Things are often delayed or don't go according to our schedule. We hit red lights. We have sequences we deem essential. We often don't understand why things happen as they do. That's where faith comes in. We must trust, even sometimes when things don't make sense or work out the way we had imagined. All these in this story eventually die from something. The woman with the issue of blood, Jairus, his daughter, Peter, the crowd, and even Jesus. However, there's something greater here. On "Memorial Day" we must remember, there is something greater here!

How did Jesus feel when they **laughed** at Him?

“Self-differentiation” is being fully yourself while still being connected to other people. It’s when I separate how I think from how I feel. It’s the ability to free myself from others and define myself.

Anyone who tries to lead will be sabotaged. It takes various forms. We see this constantly in the Bible with leaders: Joseph (his jealous brothers wanting to kill him until they could sell him into slavery), Moses (dealing with the Israelites in the wilderness) David (Absalom’s revolt), Nehemiah (enemies were trying to sabotage rebuilding of the walls), Jesus (laughed at, derided by the Pharisees, betrayed by Judas, mocked and crucified by the Roman soldiers). Jesus constantly had to self-differentiate. He didn’t let others define who He was. His identity was strongly rooted.

After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.67 So Jesus said to the Twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God." Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the Twelve? And yet one of you is a devil." He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the Twelve, was going to betray him. John 6:66-71

Mutiny & sabotage don’t come from enemies who opposed the idea, but from colleagues who supported it. Unexpected hardships come, things get difficult, and people complain and leave. He stayed with people. He had a Calm, non-anxious presence.

What are you asking me to do? 2 things:

1.) Find your identity in Christ. How do we do that? Recognize God’s love. Our sin. God’s activity to redeem us. Give your life to Him. Grow in that new identity.

2.) Help Others Follow Jesus. *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:17-19)*

It’s not enough just to love God, to have personal faith that God loves us or that we go to church. These are very important – but there’s something more. We Help Others Follow Jesus.

I remember hearing about a lady who was a Christian education director at a large church. After church at lunch every Sunday she would ask her son the same 3 questions: *“Were there any new kids in Sunday School? How do you think they felt about being new in a big church? What could you have done to help them feel better about being new to the church?”* She didn’t quiz her son on what the lesson was in the class, but who he saw who may have been having a hard time. He said learning to have empathy for people by looking in their faces helped shape him as a pastor and how he led as a pastor. She taught him how to look at people.

Come to Christ. Find a new identity. Help others find a new identity in Jesus, too. Connect with Christ – connect with others.