

sermon study guide

Pastor Ashwin Ramani

Date: May 23 / 24, 2020

Sermon Title: Thy Kingdom Come - Part 5: Authority Over Death

IN - PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. What is currently at the top of your bucket list?
2. Consider some of the funerals you have attended. What were any differences between those of a Christian and a non-Christian funeral?

UP - PURSUE GOD

Read *Matthew 9:18-26*. (For a more detailed account of this miracle, also read *Mark 5:21-43*).

3. What did the ruler (Jairus) and the sick woman have in common? How did Jesus respond to each one?
4. Why is physical touch highlighted in both healings? What does this tell you about Jesus? What do these stories do to your image of God?

OUT - PURSUE MISSION

5. Pastor Ashwin said, "The raising of Jairus' daughter is a pointer to Jesus' own resurrection – he conquered the grave and defeated death hands down. And not just that, he paved the way for all who trust in Him to be raised to life!" How does knowing that Christ has authority over death cause me to "live well" and "die well"?
6. This is the final sermon in the "Thy Kingdom Come" series. Scan through the miracles in chapters 8 and 9. Which one speaks to you most and why? How does it demonstrate the "already / not yet" character of the Kingdom of God?

For Personal Reflection/Prayer:

Many today try to downplay or ignore death. How do you approach the reality of death? How does today's Scripture inform your thinking when it comes to death? Reflect on the truth that because Jesus lives, we too will live (John 14:19). Pray and thank the Lord for His provision of eternal life through His Son.

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THE WORD (NIV)

Matthew 9:18-26

¹⁸ While he was saying this, a synagogue leader came and knelt before him and said, "My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live." ¹⁹ Jesus got up and went with him, and so did his disciples.

²⁰ Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. ²¹ She said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed."

²² Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed at that moment.

²³ When Jesus entered the synagogue leader's house and saw the noisy crowd and people playing pipes, ²⁴ he said, "Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep." But they laughed at him. ²⁵ After the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took the girl by the hand, and she got up. ²⁶ News of this spread through all that region.

Mark 5:21-43

sermon study summary

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Jesus performed ten distinct miracles in Matthew 9 and 10. Each of them demonstrated His authority over forces that oppose God's Kingdom. The battle to bring the Kingdom of God to earth continues today. These forces are defeated in principle; this defeat will be complete when God brings His Kingdom to earth on His return.

Since the Fall, death has ever been a foe of all that is living. It brings despair and sorrow, and we all will in time die. Death was not a part of God's original plan. The passage in Matthew 9:18-26 clearly demonstrates that death no longer reigns; Jesus defeated death. Today's culture downplays or works hard to ignore death. Still, the only generation that will not taste death is the one wherein Jesus returns for those who know Him.

In our passage, Jairus, a leading board member of his synagogue comes to Jesus to declare his only daughter is dying (see parallel passages in Mark 5:22-43 and Luke 8:41-56). Death was coming to even this affluent family and Jairus, desperate, ran to Jesus in humility and desperation pleading for the life of his daughter. As Jesus was returning with Jairus to his home their journey was interrupted. A woman who had been suffering from hemorrhaging for 12 years and whose every attempt to be cured had failed, broke through the crowd to touch Jesus. According to the Law her state would have made her unclean and socially ostracized. Touching Jesus unthinkable! Hers and Jairus' situations were dire. Both landed at the feet of Jesus. His response to both 'daughters' was astonishing.

Jesus only ever addressed one woman in the Gospels as 'daughter'. It was her – this outcast, unclean, marginalized woman – and Jesus brought her into His family, her status restored, her impurity removed. And the other daughter? On His arrival at Jairus' home Jesus faced a crowd of professional mourners wailing at the recent death of the girl. Their very presence indicated the girl was genuinely dead. Yet Jesus was unphased and said that the girl was merely sleeping. In no uncertain terms Jesus told these mourners to leave. Indeed, the word He used was the same as when driving demons away! And when He took her hand and spoke to the girl, he did so in a gentle way as a parent might wake their child, saying in essence, 'Little Lamb, it's time to get up.' And she came back to life from the dead! The One Who spoke the universe into existence spoke in this tender, intimate way to her.

Death is inevitable, but we are not alone in this valley of the shadow of death. Death no longer has the final say. Like with this young girl, Jesus holds us by our hand even as we transition from life on this earth to eternity. How do we know this? Because Jesus rose from the dead. Yes, death is still active today but for the Christian it is not something to fear. God promises to change not only creation, but also our own mortal bodies will be changed to be immortal. Because He lives, we shall live also.