



DEFEATING DISCOURAGEMENT Lesson Six- Discouraged People in the Bible:

Jairus

October 13, 2020

Our five memory passages:

2 Corinthians 10:4: The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

Psalms 142:1-2: I cry aloud to the Lord; I lift up my voice to the Lord for mercy. I pour out before him my complaint; before him I tell my trouble.

1 Samuel 2:2: There is no one holy like the Lord; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God.

Psalms 62:1: Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from him.

Psalms 103:13-14: As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him; for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.

Mark 5:22 – 24

Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. ²³ He pleaded earnestly with him, “My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.” ²⁴ So Jesus went with him.

A large crowd followed and pressed around him.

What was a synagogue ruler? His duties included the conducting of the synagogue worship and the selection of those who were to lead the prayer, read the Scriptures, and preach in it. There was generally only one ruler to each synagogue.

In general, how did synagogue rulers feel about Jesus?

- *Luke 13:14: Indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, the synagogue leader said to the people, “There are six days for work. So come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath.”*
- *Luke 23:13 – 18: Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people, ¹⁴ and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him. ¹⁵ Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death. ¹⁶ Therefore, I will punish him and then release him.” But the whole crowd shouted, “Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!”*
- *Luke 23:35: The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.”*
- *John 7:47-48: “You mean he has deceived you also?” the Pharisees retorted. ⁴⁸ “Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed in him?”*

DISCUSSION QUESTION

What is remarkable about the fact that Jairus would approach Jesus as he did?

When his daughter becomes sick unto death, and he's running out of time and options, Jairus goes to find Jesus and fell at his feet, pleading with him: "My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live."

Sometimes it takes an emergency to get people to look up to Jesus, doesn't it?

Mark 5:35

While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher anymore?"

There's probably no worse news any parent could receive than to hear that their child has died. And as Jesus and Jairus are heading to Jairus's house, his friends met him and Jesus and said, "Don't bother; she's dead already."

DISCUSSION QUESTION

How would you expect Jairus to react to their message?

Did Jairus trust these men who told him his daughter was dead?

Were they telling Jairus the truth?

Would they have told him this terrible bad news if they weren't absolutely sure it was true?

Would you expect Jairus to believe these men?

Would you expect Jairus to be pretty discouraged upon hearing their news?

Notice **verse 36**:

"Ignoring what they said, Jesus told the synagogue ruler, "Don't be afraid; just believe."

Here's what we learn from Jairus about defeating discouragement:

Ignore Your Discouragers!

Does Jairus believe Jesus or his friends?

DISCUSSION QUESTION

What would be the risks for Jairus of each decision?

If Jairus believes his friends:

- What would he say to Jesus?
- His daughter would remain dead.

If Jairus believes Jesus

- He would have to ignore his obviously sincere and believable friends.
- He would risk looking like a fool.
- He would risk his friendships.
- He would risk his position as ruler of the synagogue.

Mark 5:37-43

He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. He went in and said to them, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep. But they laughed at him.

After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha koum!" (which means "Little girl, I say to you, get up!"). Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.

Jairus evidently chooses to believe Jesus, because they keep walking to his house where his daughter is lying - dead by this time. Keep putting yourself in Jairus's shoes. He's tagging along with Jesus, allowing him to enter his home, to go into his daughter's room, while his friends and family are ridiculing him.

Notice what Jesus did first, in **verse 40 of Mark 5**:

After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was.

Who did he put out?

Notice **verse 42**:

Immediately the girl stood up and walked around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished.

Who is the "they" referred to in this verse?

I'm astonished that the disciples were astonished. After all, they've been with Jesus quite a while by this time and seen him do wonderful things. Yet they're still "completely astonished"!

Think about the lessons we can take from this for ourselves when we are in desperate need of some touch from Jesus, and when we are terribly upset and discouraged.

1. Learn when to ignore people.

Are there people around you who are discouraging you with their negativism? Are you listening to others more than you are listening to God?

What can you do to keep from allowing them to bring you down? How can you ignore them, as Jesus told Jairus to do?

Others will discourage us if we allow them to. We must learn to listen to Jesus and tune out - ignore - the people who would discourage us. How?

- Smile and walk away
- Don't think about what they have said to you.

- Tune them out; avoid them where possible; change the subject - whatever you have to do - but don't let the negative people discourage you. Don't catch their disease.
- Think about what is true, noble, right, pure, lovely and admirable - the good reports, not the bad ones (**Philippians 4:8**).
- Seek other support/advice.
- Reaffirm your trust in God.

2. Throw out the nay-sayers!

DISCUSSION QUESTION

How do you know who and when to "put out?"

- Were Jairus's friends and the mourners at his house telling him what they thought was the truth?
- Were Jairus's friends and the mourners at his house telling him the opposite of what Jesus was telling him?

So, how do we know who and when to "put out" of our lives?

How do you put them out? Which of these methods would seem to both work and be a kind course of action:

- Sit down with those people and explain that you intend to obey God not people.
- Show them from God's Word where they are wrong and you are right.
- As much as possible, just quietly ignore what they say, and do what Jesus says.
- Learn to tune them out when they are telling you things that discourage you. (Think about Jesus; hum a tune in your head; quote verses to yourself; change the subject; leave the conversation as quickly as possible.)

So often when we're discouraged, we must ignore even what well-meaning people would say to us. They're often looking at the outward appearances and not leaving room for God to act.

Are you forgetting the God-factor in your life? It's easy to do.

It would have been easy for Jairus to do. But thankfully he listened to Jesus who told him to ignore the bad news and keep on believing. God may be waiting for you to ignore your bad news and act on faith.

A very important principle we all need to remember is that we must carefully choose the people in our lives who we allow to influence us. If you're running with the wrong crowd or the wrong person, you may never be able to defeat discouragement because that crowd or that person is always pulling you down.

We need to be wise about screening out people in our lives who discourage us.

Proverbs 4:14: Do not set foot on the path of the wicked or walk in the way of evildoers.

Proverbs 13:20: Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.

There may be times when a confrontation is unavoidable. Be sure, if that happens, that you're prepared mentally and emotionally for that confrontation, and that you're not speaking in anger or frustration.

Suggested Assignment: Memorize this passage.

Proverbs 4:23: Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.



Lesson One

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2 Corinthians 10:4

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

THE CHRISTIAN
Working Woman

1

Lesson Two

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Psalm 142:1-2

I cry aloud to the Lord; I lift up my voice to the Lord for mercy. I pour out before him my complaint; before him I tell my trouble.

THE CHRISTIAN
Working Woman

2

Lesson Three

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1 Samuel 2:2

There is no one holy like the Lord; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God.

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Lesson Four

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Psalm 62:1

Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from him.

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Lesson Five

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Psalm 103:13-14

As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him; for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.

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5