

The Qualities of a Godly Father

Mark 5: 21-24; 35-43

Today is a special day for many of the men here. Today has been set aside to honor fathers. Being a father is one of the great joys in life. I am blessed to have children and very thankful for that wonderful opportunity. But as I consider the blessings, I am also reminded of the responsibilities. God has entrusted us with a unique position along with an expectation to fulfill our obligations to the family.

Our text reveals a man who serves as a role model for fathers. Although time and cultures change, the responsibilities of fathers do not. The qualities that Jairus possessed ought to be pursued today. What kind of father are we? Are we striving to be the best we can be for our families? I would encourage you to examine your heart today as we consider: [The Qualities of a Godly Father](#).

I. A Father's Priority (22a) – [And, behold, there cometh one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name; and when he saw him, he fell at his feet,](#) We find that Jairus was a ruler in the synagogue. He was a man of position, prestige, and power. He had worked hard and achieved a prominent place in society. He was regarded as a man of influence, in charge of the local assembly at the synagogue.

- At first glance, all that seems wonderful. Jairus was a man of dedication and perseverance. These are good qualities to possess. But, we need to understand that he is now in a difficult situation. His only daughter, according to Luke, was dying. All the prestige and power he had couldn't help her.
- He had heard about a Man named Jesus who he believed could heal her. But, Jesus was no longer accepted by the religious rulers. He was viewed as a blasphemer who claimed to be the Son of God. The Pharisees desired to get rid of Jesus. He was upsetting their way of religion. If Jairus went to Jesus, what about those with whom he worshipped. He would likely lose all that he had worked so hard to achieve.
- Jairus makes a profound decision; he decides to put his family ahead of his own personal achievements. Jairus makes his daughter the priority of his life. He was willing to risk it all to get her to Jesus.
- Men, what a lesson for us today! Our positions, prestige, places of business, and accomplishments should not come at the expense of our families. We need to understand and

fulfill our obligations to them. Getting our children in the presence of Jesus will be the greatest thing we can achieve! A godly father will have his priorities in order: God, family, and then self.

I. A Father's Priority (22a)

II. A Father's Petition (22b-23) – Jairus makes his way to the crowd of people in search of Jesus. He has decided that he must get to Jesus for his daughter. He has come with a plea of help from Jesus. Imagine the scene as he pushes through the crowd and up ahead the crowd has broken and there in the midst is Jesus, the One he has come to see. There are a couple of things worth mentioning about his petition. Notice:

A. His Humility (22b) – Jairus **fell at His feet**. The word **fell** means “*to descend from a higher place to a lower one.*” Here is Jairus, the ruler of the synagogue, a man who has others in submission to him, bowing at the feet of Jesus. He has laid aside his pride and dignity. He wasn't concerned with the opposition or prejudice of others. He has put his position, with all its security, fame, and authority on the line. He has humbled himself before the Lord.

- We need fathers who will do that in our day. We need to come humbly before the Lord in prayer and supplication for our children. Our families need fathers who will spend some time at the feet of Jesus!

B. His Faith (23) – **And besought him greatly, saying, My little daughter lieth at the point of death: I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live.** Jairus was confident that Jesus could bring healing to his daughter. She was at the point of death, but he knew that Jesus had the power to overcome any problem.

- Notice the extent of his faith: **she shall live**. Jairus was aware that the situation was beyond his control. There was nothing he could do no matter how desperately he tried. He had learned to trust the Lord for things he couldn't provide.

- I'm glad that God likes to work when nothing else can. When we face situations within our families that are beyond our control, and they are many, trust in Jesus; He will never fail! I'm glad there is hope for those who believe in faith. Honor Jesus with your faith; expect Him to do the unexpected!

I. A Father's Priority (22a)

II. A Father's Petition (22b-23)

III. A Father's Persistence – Jairus had made it to Jesus, but they weren't home yet. As they began to make their way the crowds continued to follow. The Bible doesn't record anything that Jairus says during this time, but I'm sure there were some tense moments. Time was of the essence; his daughter may not make it until they arrived.

- In the face of great difficulty Jairus remained true to his faith. He was persistent in his pursuit of healing for his daughter. He wasn't about to give up on Jesus. The text reveals three areas that his faith was tested, and yet he was persistent.

A. A Time of Delay (24) – *And Jesus went with him; and much people followed him, and thronged him.* In the verses that we didn't read is the account of the woman with the issue of blood. She had come with a great need, but while Jesus was ministering to her there was a delay in getting to Jairus' daughter. His faith remained persistent in time of delay. He had placed his need in the hands of Jesus and fully trusted Him to provide for his daughter.

- We must learn this great truth. God doesn't always work when we think He should. There are times when we feel that God has denied or forgotten our request. Always remember that a delay doesn't necessarily mean a denial. God works in His time and He is never late. 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.

B. A Time of Despair (35-36) – *While he yet spake, there came from the ruler of the synagogue's house certain which said, Thy daughter is dead: why troublest thou the Master any further? [36] As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe.* As Jairus patiently waited on Jesus he heard some dreadful news, his daughter had died. He had done all he could and she was gone. Those who brought the news were saying, she has died, there's no need to bother with Jesus any longer!

- Jairus remains persistent in his faith. He stays with Jesus determined that He can provide. As he stood there Jesus said, *Be not afraid, only believe.* This means "*keep on believing, there's no limit to what faith in the power of God can do.*" We will all face those difficult times of despair, when it seems all hope is lost. These are not the time to abandon our faith in Jesus. *Mk.9:23 – Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.* We need to be men of faith who trust God in every situation.

C. A Time of Doubt (38-40) – And he cometh to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and seeth the tumult, and them that wept and wailed greatly. [39] And when he was come in, he saith unto them, **Why make ye this ado, and weep? the damsel is not dead, but sleepeth.** [40] And they laughed him to scorn. But when he had put them all out, he taketh the father and the mother of the damsel, and them that were with him, and entereth in where the damsel was lying. When they arrive home a group of mourners has already gathered. Jesus proclaims that she isn't dead, only asleep. With that the people begin to laugh and mock the power of Jesus.

- Clearly they don't have the faith that Jairus has. They haven't spent any time at His feet; they haven't heard His voice of comfort; they haven't seen the miracle that Jesus has just performed. Jairus is still persistent in his faith. He has determined to trust Jesus no matter who else does.
- I'm glad that my faith isn't dependent upon the attitude or opinions of others. The world may look at your situation and declare that there is no hope, but keep on trusting in Jesus. They don't know what you know. They haven't labored in prayer; they haven't heard His words of comfort as you have; they know nothing of the power of the God we serve. I am confident in my Lord's ability to meet my needs!

I. A Father's Priority (22a)

II. A Father's Petition (22b-23)

III. A Father's Persistence

IV. A Father's Privilege (41-42) – And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, **Talitha cumi;** which is, being interpreted, **Damsel, I say unto thee, arise.** [42] And straightway the damsel arose, and walked; for she was of the age of twelve years. And they were astonished with a great **astonishment.** What began as a day of despair and uncertainty has ended in a day of deliverance and rejoicing. Jesus has raised their only child from the dead.

- As I considered this passage I was mindful of the role Jairus played in the healing of his daughter. He was a man of influence before a lot of people in the synagogue, but on this day he was a man of influence in his own home. His daughter was raised up because of her encounter with Jesus. Jairus was the key to her meeting the Master. Had he not sought out the Lord, she likely would've been buried, separated from her family. Because of his commitment to his family, as a faithful father, his daughter had been given life.
- Men that is a profound truth for you and me. We have been given the glorious privilege to father our children. What a blessing it is to be a positive influence in their lives. We need to

do all that we can to ensure that our children have an encounter with Jesus. Every child needs to feel the touch of the Master and be raised from a life of sin, born again into the family of God. There is no greater privilege than to see your children come to know Jesus.

- We need to be all that we can be for the Lord so that they can see Jesus in us and desire what we have! I'm sure that Jairus' daughter remembered his love and concern for her more than the position that he had in the synagogue. What will our children remember about us?

This message was prepared with the fathers in mind, but there is application for all of us. Every Christian needs to exercise their faith in the Lord. There may be something that you need from the Lord today. He is waiting for you as He was for Jairus. Won't you come in faith to Him?