

Tuesday, September 15, 2020
Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...

"They came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and Jesus saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. And when he had entered, he said to them, 'Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping.' And they laughed at him. Taking her by the hand he said to her, 'Talitha cumi,' which means, 'Little girl, I say to you, arise.' And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement."

Mark 5: 38-42

Some might have said that Jesus was in denial when He said, "The child is not dead but sleeping." You can almost imagine a grief-stricken parent saying the same thing: "No! It can't be true! My little girl is alive." But this little girl in Mark's gospel had died. She was not just "sleeping," at least not in the way that you and I think of sleep.

So, then, why did Jesus say that she was just sleeping. He said the same thing about His friend Lazarus when he had died. Jesus said, "Our friend, Lazarus, has fallen asleep, but I am going there to wake him up." Why does Jesus downplay things that are obviously much more serious than He seems to indicate? It's kind of interesting that so many things that most people downplay (i.e. sin), Jesus makes a big deal about, but other things that we make a big deal about, Jesus tells us they are not as bad as we think.

For Jesus, death is no different than sleep! That's because He is Lord. He is able to reverse death! To Him, death is not a big deal. It's not the end as far as Jesus is concerned.

This is a good thing to remember when we are facing difficult times ... even a pandemic! And while we're at it, we should remember Jesus' authority over other things as well: financial hardships, social upheaval, concern over the direction of our nation, or whatever else that seems to be a big deal to us. To us, they are a big deal. To Jairus, the synagogue ruler, whose daughter had died, her death seemed insurmountable. But for Jesus it was no different than if she had been asleep. No problem is too hard for Jesus to change or overcome if it is His will to do so.

As Christians, we live in this world too. The pandemic can affect our lives as well. Christians can experience hardships in life just as much as non-Christians. The difference, however, is how Christians are able to respond to those hardships. We can respond in peace and still exhibit an unexplainable joy. It's not because we live in denial. It's because we know that whatever Jesus chooses to do about those things, it will be a good thing. He can reverse any situation, even death! The Day will come when He will reverse our death! We will be resurrected just like He was resurrected. Until then, we trust in His authority in this world.

God's Peace!
Pastor Jim