

The One Who is Our Hope

Mark 5:21-43

18 Oct 09

Let's take our Bibles now and open to First Thessalonians, chapter one. First Thessalonians chapter one, and I just want to read verse 10 as we come to God's word tonight. First Thessalonians, chapter one and verse ten. This is a description of the believers there in the church in Thessalonica. And it says that they were waiting for "His son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come." Now that's a great statement regarding the hope that the Thessalonians had. They had an expectancy. They're waiting. They're anticipating. The coming of God's Son, the one raised from the dead, Jesus Himself, the one who rescues us from the wrath to come. A great statement of their hope. And we know that hope was something that characterized the church at Thessalonica. Back at verse three, you can see that they had steadfastness that was a result of their hope, their confidence, their expectation, their anticipation, of future blessings, particularly the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. And, hope is an important part, an essential part of the Christian life. It's an essential life of any church. Thessalonians, we've seen as a model church, an exemplary church, and they are examples in this way of demonstrating hope. And hope is so important. I just want to read to you a familiar few verses from Hebrews chapter 10 verses 23-25. It says, "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful." There again it talks about the source of our hope. It's the promises of a faithful God. Well, "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near." So here again you see the importance of hope and holding on to the hope that we have and encouraging one another in light of that hope. You know the church is the closest thing to heaven on earth. When we come together as a church, we're experiencing a little bit of heaven. This is the place to be, to be with God's people, worshiping God, opening up God's word. That's what stimulates and encourages, and strengthens our hope, and hope is so very vital to our Christian living. To have that confidence and that anticipation that produces that steadfastness in our lives. And you know the fact that you're here tonight is an interesting thing because you might know a lot of churches, they don't have Sunday night services. In fact, a lot of churches are trying to make church, coming to church, as easy, short and convenient as possible. In fact, that's how they try to promote their church. That's totally contrary to what these verses say. That as we see the day drawing near, we should be meeting together more often, not less often. And, besides, where else would you rather be? I mean, what else would you rather be doing tonight than to be with God's people, worshiping God, opening up God's word, and partaking of the Lord's table? Talk about something that's going to produce and stimulate hope in your life, something that's going to make a difference in your life, well this is it. This is what we're talking about.

Going back to First Thessalonians 1:10, you can see that their hope is focused on this person. The person raised from the dead, the person Jesus Christ. First Timothy 1:1 says that Jesus is our hope. He is our hope. And so for our time tonight I want to focus in on Jesus as our hope. This is totally different than

what I planned to speak on tonight. Your bulletin says that I am going to speak on Him who rescues us from the wrath to come, and man I had a lot of good stuff to tell you about the wrath to come. We were going to talk about the day of the Lord, and the tribulation, and talk about the rapture, and we were going to get all in to that. But I decided that we'll wait on that until we get to chapters four and five that talk more about it. I thought that today for us as a church and some of the things that we've been experiencing and some of the things we prayed about already tonight, it would be nice to just focus on the one who is our hope, the Lord Jesus Christ. So I've never done this before. Never went home Sunday afternoon and changed what I'm going to preach Sunday night. Depending on how it goes this might be the last time I ever do this! But I want to focus in on the person of the Lord Jesus Christ and the hope that we have in Him. So let's turn to the gospel of Mark. Mark chapter five.

Mark chapter five, and I want to read the section starting in verse 21 down to the end of the chapter. Lengthy section, but familiar I'm sure to many of you. And we'll see how our hope is found in the Lord Himself. Mark chapter 5 verse 21. It says, "When Jesus had crossed over again in the boat to the other side, a large crowd gathered around Him; and so He stayed by the seashore. One of the synagogue officials named Jairus came up, and on seeing Him, fell at His feet and implored Him earnestly, saying, 'My little daughter is at the point of death; please come and lay Your hands on her, so that she will get well and live.' And He went off with him; and a large crowd was following Him and pressing in on Him. A woman who had had a hemorrhage for twelve years, and had endured much, at the hands of many physicians, and had spent all that she had and was not helped at all, but rather had grown worse- after hearing about Jesus, she came up in the crowd behind Him and touched His cloak. For she thought, 'If I just touch His garments, I will get well.' Immediately the flow of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction. Immediately Jesus, perceiving in Himself that the power proceeding from Him had gone forth, turned around in the crowd and said, 'Who touched My garments?' And His disciples said to Him, 'You see the crowd pressing in on You and You say, 'Who touched Me?' And He looked around to see the woman who had done this. But the woman fearing and trembling, aware of what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. And He said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace and be healed of your affliction.' While He was still speaking, they came from the house of the synagogue official, saying, 'Your daughter has died; why trouble the Teacher anymore?' But Jesus, overhearing what was being spoken, said to the synagogue official, 'Do not be afraid any longer, only believe.' And He allowed no one to accompany Him, except Peter and James and John the brother of James. They came to the house of the synagogue official; and He saw a commotion, and people loudly weeping and wailing. And entering in, He said to them, 'Why make a commotion and weep? The child has not died, but is asleep.' They began laughing at Him. But putting them all out, He took along the child's father and mother and His own companions, and entered the room where the child was. Taking the child by the hand, He said to her, 'Talitha kum!' (which translated means, 'Little girl, I say to you, get up!'). Immediately the girl got up and began to walk, for she was twelve years old. And immediately they were completely astounded. And He gave them strict orders that no one should know about this, and He said that something should be given her to eat."

What you see there in that account are two situations that are completely hopeless from a human perspective. In one situation the woman, every human resource had been explored and found lacking. There was no human cure that could be of a help to this woman who had suffered so miserably for 12 years. And there's no human resource that can bring back the dead. Once the girl was dead, the people thought the story is over. We can't bring people back from the dead. In both situations the hopelessness of the condition is well established. But this simply sets the stage for Jesus to dramatically display His deity and His sovereignty over all of creation. And in both situations, the people reach out in desperation to Christ and they find Him more than sufficient to provide more than they could have ever even imagined. And because of who Christ is and what He does, you and I can set our hope on Him as well. Second Corinthians 1:10 says, "He on whom we have set our hope." First John 3:3 says that we have fixed our hope on Jesus Christ. And it's important that our hope is set, that our hope is fixed on Christ, because it's hope that produces steadfastness in the Christian life as we saw in First Thessalonians 1:3. It's what keeps us going on. Hope also has a purifying effect. First John 3:3 says we have fixed our hope on Him and everybody who has is purified by that hope. We need our hope settled on the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. And I see this as a real area of struggle in the lives of many Christians.

Sometimes we seem to lose hope. And then we grieve like those who have no hope. Or we can develop a false hope. First Timothy 6:17 warns about fixing our hope on the uncertainty of riches. Boy is that a timely verse. Yet we often do things just like this and we see the results of pursuing after false hopes, or losing hope. Our lives will often slip into discouragement. We'll act defeated and disheartened. Things aren't going the way I expected they would so I'm frustrated. Or as a result of misplaced hope we experience discord. When we're not getting what we expect, well then we get angry, and get resentful. We seek revenge and retaliation against those who wronged us. Discouragement, discord, depression is often the end result of a false hope. This relationship, or this job, or my health, it just isn't what I had hoped for. And I'm overwhelmed by what's happening and I'm bummed out, I'm blue, I'm depressed about it. Also people who have a false hope sometimes wind up in a divorce. Their marriage isn't what they had hoped for. They have no hope that it will be what they want it to be. And so they seek a divorce. False hopes, hopes that are fixed on something other than Christ lead to things like discouragement, discord, depression, divorce; I see it all the time. The cure is to fix our hope on Christ. And as we look at Christ dealing with these two hopeless situations, I want you to see five reasons why you can say, why I can say, my hope is in the Lord. Five reasons you can say, my hope is in the Lord. Nothing is going to be really original that you are going to hear tonight, nothing novel, but something that we all need to hear. And we need to hear it often. Five reasons why you can say my hope is in the Lord.

Reason number one: Jesus is available. Jesus is available. Look at verses 21 through 24. "When Jesus had crossed over again in the boat to the other side, a large crowd gathered around Him; and so He stayed by the seashore." However, whatever, the water! See I might never do this again if this keeps happening! "One of the synagogue officials named Jairus came up, and on seeing Him, fell at His feet and implored Him earnestly, saying, 'My little daughter is at the point of death; please come and lay Your hands on her, so that she'll get well and live.'" Well, Jesus and His disciples have been on the

eastern side of the Sea of Galilee. They had been in the country of the Gerasenes. And, there the Lord had encountered a man who was possessed by many demons, you know the story. What was his name? Legion, for we are many. The man was filled with many demons. The people of that region expressed their gratitude to Jesus for delivering this man from this multitude of demons that had possessed him by asking him to leave. You might remember that the demons were cast out into a herd of 2000 swine which immediately raced down a hill into the Sea of Galilee and drowned. And when I was on the Sea of Galilee out in a boat in the middle of the sea I took a picture of all the possible places that could have happened. I was just trying to picture these pigs running down the hill and diving in and then drowning. The people saw Jesus not as a wonderful Savior, but as someone who was bad for business. So they begged Him to leave. So now Jesus comes back to the western side, near Capernaum where most of His ministry took place. And upon His return, Jesus is surrounded by a multitude. In fact, in Luke 8:40 it says that they had been looking for Him to return. They were just looking for Him, waiting for Him, and once the word got out Jesus was back, boy they all went down to the seashore. And the excitement level was running pretty high that day. Verse 21 says that the crowd gathered around Him. That implies that the crowd was pressing closely upon Him. They were all crowding in around Him. So, Jesus isn't even able to advance beyond the shore because of the press of the crowd. But there is one man in that crowd, and recognizing Jesus as the center of the crowd, he approaches Jesus. And this man was not just any man, he's a synagogue official, a ruler in the local synagogue as verse 22 tells us. He's one of the highest ranking, if not the highest ranking, religious officials there in Capernaum.

Now, we know that already by this time in Jesus' ministry, the religious establishment in Israel was strongly opposed to Jesus. This synagogue ruler, this man named Jairus, would certainly have been aware of that. And he would have realized that he could face severe criticism for approaching Jesus on that day. But he did. He did approach Jesus that day. And not only that, he bowed down at the feet of Jesus and he began to beg Jesus. Verse 23 says he was imploring Him earnestly. He's begging with Jesus. Here's one of the highest ranking religious figures around, publicly prostrating himself before Jesus and intensely, fervently, earnestly begging Him. Why is he doing that? Because he's a desperate man. He has come to this point in his life because his daughter is dying. Luke's gospel tells us that this was his only daughter. And here you can see that Jairus refers to her as his little daughter. Although she was 12 years old, according to Jewish custom she would have been considered a woman, yet she's still her daddy's little girl. And she's at the point of death. And he's a desperate man. And for her sake, and because of the great love that he had for his daughter, this man is willing to risk it all. He's willing to risk religious ridicule and public embarrassment by kneeling down in front of Jesus and begging Him. But, this man came to Jesus not only because of the deep need but because he had faith that Jesus had the power to heal his daughter. You see that at the end of verse 23, he says, "Please come and lay your hands on her, so that she'll get well and live." So confident is this man that he knows that unless Jesus does something, his daughter is going to die. The situation is humanly hopeless. His only hope is if Jesus can do, will do, what nobody else can do. So, you got the picture. Jesus is standing there by the Sea of Galilee, He has just arrived, a crowd has mobbed Him, Jairus has made his way through the crowd to Jesus, falls down in front of Him and begs Him to come to his house and heal his daughter. How did Jesus respond to Jairus? Did He say, hey Jairus, take a look around, I'm kind of busy right now. I have all of these other people here. Get in line. Did He say that? Did He say, call my secretary and make an appointment? Did He do

that? Did He rebuke Jairus and say to him, sure you ridicule Me when it's helpful to you in terms of your religious position and status, but when you really get desperate, then you turn to Me. Did He rebuke him like that? Nope. He didn't do any of that. The text in verse 24 simply says that Jesus went with Jairus. That to me is absolutely amazing. And, incredibly encouraging. Jesus is sensitive. Jesus is compassionate to the need to an individual. Nobody else can do that like Him. Nobody can respond like Him. Nobody can be available to you like Jesus can. Nobody. He make Himself available to Jairus. How available is He to you and me? Absolutely available. Matthew 28:20, the last verse of the Great Commission, Jesus says "I am with you always." He's with us always. He says He'll never leave us or forsake us. He is available to you and to me anytime, anywhere. Is that amazing to you? The one who is the creator of the whole universe, the one who is the Savior, is available to you anytime, anywhere. Totally available to you. You won't get any busy signals. No calls go to voice mail when you call Jesus. He is totally available. There is no friend, there is no spouse, there is no pastor that can be available to you like Jesus is. Jesus is available and He responds to those who call out to Him. When you're looking for hope in the midst of a hopeless situation, the person who can provide the hope must be available.

Jesus went with Jairus and the whole multitude followed along. Verse 24 says they were pressing in on Him. I mean, they're exerting a kind of suffocating pressure on Jesus, really hindering Him from moving as quickly as He could to get to Jairus's house. He's got to work His way through this crowd, but away they go. The point there is, Jesus is available. My hope is in the Lord because Jesus is available. Now, you might think that He was available in this situation because Jairus, he's kind of an important guy. Sure He responds immediately. That's maybe more a reflection of the stature of Jairus. That doesn't generate much hope for the rest of us who are maybe not up to that status. Well the next characteristic that we see in Jesus answers that because there is a certain woman in the crowd that Jesus encounters and in this we see a second reason that you can say my hope is in the Lord. And that is because Jesus is impartial.

Jesus is impartial. Verses 25 through 29. It says, "A woman who had had a hemorrhage for twelve years, and had endured much at the hands of many physicians, and had spent all that she had and was not helped at all, but rather had grown worse- after hearing about Jesus, she came up in the crowd behind Him and touched His cloak. For she thought 'If I just touch His garments, I will get well.' Immediately the flow of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction." Well, this woman, just like Jairus, is desperate. And she knew that Jesus was her only hope. She'd had a hemorrhage for 12 years. That probably refers to a chronic uterine hemorrhage. A constant flow, a constant issue of blood. She was continuously in the grip of this condition for 12 years. That made her, according to Leviticus 15, ceremonially unclean which meant she could not attend the synagogue where Jairus was a ruler because she is unclean. She can't attend the temple because she's unclean. She would religiously contaminate everyone and everything that she touched. She was a social outcast. In fact, socially her condition would not have been any different than that of a leper. So not only did she endure 12 years of physical agony, physical distress, but she suffered socially as well because she's unclean. And not only physically and socially, but she had suffered financially. Verse 26 said that she had spent everything she had seeking medical assistance for her problem. Everything she had. No health insurance. She had to pay her own money. And she spent all of it. Everything she had on trying to get

better. And what does it say she got for all of her money? She got worse. She had spared no expense in her pursuit for a cure for her condition. She'd endured many treatments, but in the end she was worse, not better. By the way, there's another false hope for you: medicine. Human science, that they can cure everything that's wrong with you. Luke, who by profession, was a medical doctor, Dr. Luke, says in Luke 8:43, she couldn't be healed by anyone. There was no known solution for her situation. And in her desperation she turns to Jesus. So with the crowd surrounding Jesus she takes advantage of this opportunity to sneak up behind Him, hoping that she can just touch His cloak. No doubt she desires secrecy in doing this, because an open appeal to Jesus for healing would involve her publicly disclosing her condition. Boy that would be embarrassing. So she pushes her way through the crowd and touches His cloak. She did this because she kept telling herself, as it says in verse 28, that "If I just touch His garments I will get well." She had faith in His healing power. In fact, she believed that she could be healed without Him even knowing it. And, when she touched Him, what happened? Immediately she was healed. Verse 29 tells us. The flow of blood dried up and she immediately felt better. She knew that she had been healed immediately. She had been completely healed from her affliction, which really was a torturous disease if you think about it.

So we see Jesus responds to a religious leader and Jesus heals a religious outcast. These two people couldn't have been on more extreme ends of the social and religious scene. He was a leader, she was an outcast. He was rich, undoubtedly because of his position, she was poor having spent everything seeking a cure. He had enjoyed 12 years with his little daughter, which brought him great joy, she had endured 12 years of misery. These two couldn't have been more different. Yet Jesus responded to both of them. The religious leader, and the religious outcast. That shows us that Jesus is impartial. In Acts chapter 10, you remember the account Peter got sent to the home of Cornelius, a Gentile. He was a little resistant to do that. The Lord had to provide a vision to convince him that this is what he really ought to do. And when he went there, at Cornelius's house, he opened his mouth and we're told in Acts 10:34 and he said, "I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality." He's not one to show partiality. He's impartial. My hope is in the Lord because Jesus is available and because Jesus is impartial. And that's important for us to know that He's impartial, He'll respond to anybody who calls out to Him. When I was in college I got to know a number of the guys on the football team, not because I was on the football team, but they were Christians, I was a Christian, we hung out together, we went to church together. One night, one of the guys who was an all-American offensive lineman was really excited because his parents were going to come to church with him that night. So a few of us were standing outside when this guy shows up with his mom and dad. He wanted to introduce his parents to his friends. And so he starts introducing them to his friends and here's how it went. Mom and dad, this is Tim, he's the nose guard on the team. Mom and dad, this is Jeff, he's a linebacker on the team. Mom and dad, this is Greg, he's a defensive lineman on the team. They were duly impressed. These are big dudes. And then he turns to me. And he said, mom and dad, this is Bruce, he's just a guy. But God is impartial. He'll respond to me just as well as those big dudes. Nice to know He's impartial when you are just a guy. You'll notice I haven't forgotten that story.

A third reason why my hope is in the Lord is because Jesus is gracious. Jesus is gracious. Verses 30 through 34. "Immediately Jesus, perceiving in Himself that the power proceeding from Him had gone

forth, turned around in the crowd and said, 'Who touched My garments?' And His disciples said to Him, 'You see the crowd pressing in on You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?'' And He looked around to see the woman who had done this. But the woman fearing and trembling, aware of what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. And He said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace and be healed of your affliction.'" Verse 30 is an amazing verse. Jesus knows that this power has issued forth from Him. And so He asks who touched me? He knows the release of power was related to somebody touching Him. The disciples were amazed by this. There's a multitude crowding around Him. He's being bumped and jostled all over the place and He wants to know who touched Him. Who hasn't touched You? You can see that's their question in verse 31 that they don't understand what's going on. Now apparently Jesus knew what had happened and he asked the question simply to draw out this woman because in verse 32 He looked out to see this woman who had done this. And as Jesus looks over the crowd that's there, there is one person what knows what He's talking about when He says somebody touched Me. She knew that He knew what she had done. And she finally and fearfully steps forward, verse 33, the woman came fearing and trembling aware of what had happened to her. She's fearing, that speaks of her inner feeling. She's trembling, that's the outward manifestation of that inner feeling, and she tells the whole story. And she's fearful, no doubt, that she has displeased Him because she secured a healing without His permission. She hasn't asked for this. Also, she being in an unclean condition had touched Him. Not supposed to do that. So she comes up and falls before Him and tells the whole story about what had happened. How did Jesus respond to her? He responded graciously. Verse 34, "Daughter, your faith has made you well." He refers to her as daughter. It's the only recorded instance where Jesus addressed a woman in that way. It affectionately assured her of a relationship with Him which she has just entered. You see her faith had not only resulted in a physical healing, but it brought her into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. She's now one of His spiritual children. He calls her daughter. And He says to her, literally, it reads "Your faith has saved you." Your faith has saved you. Jesus doesn't use the normal words associated with physical healing, but rather He uses the word for salvation. And you see this repeatedly throughout the gospels. For example in Mark chapter 10 verse 52, after Jesus heals a blind man named Bartimaeus, He says, "Go; your faith has saved you." Exact same expression used there. In Luke chapter seven and verse 50, a woman who was referred to as a sinner had approached Jesus and she had washed His feet, kissed His feet in fact, you might remember the story, and at the end of that passage Luke 7:50 He said to the woman "Your faith has saved you; go in peace." The exact same expression. Here there is no physical healing involved. He just says to the woman, your faith has saved you. Exact same phrase. This is most clearly seen in Luke chapter 17 where Jesus heals 10 lepers. Remember the story? And He tells them to go off to the priest, and they head on their way and that's actually when they were healed, as they went along their way. How many of those 10 came back to give Jesus thanks? One of them. In verse 19, Jesus says to this one, "Stand up and go; your faith has saved you." Did the other nine guys get healed? The other nine guys got healed, one of them got saved. Jesus gave this woman that day far more than she could have imagined. She came seeking physical healing, she left not only physically healed, but saved. He says to her, go in peace. That's a peace that she had never known before. That just shows the grace of Jesus Christ. He wasn't offended by her touching His cloak with her unclean hands. He didn't resent her presuming upon Him while He was on His way to help a child that's on her death bed. And most of all, His grace is shown in accepting her imperfect faith. He says, your faith has saved you. Did she have

perfect faith? The woman's view seems to include some superstition even. You know, she says if I just touch His clothes I'll be healed. What's up with that? Where did that come from? And you know, Jairus's faith, it wasn't perfect either, was it? Because he thought that Jesus had to go to where his daughter is in order to heal her. Did Jesus need to go there to heal her? No, He healed other people from long distance. He could have done that with her as well.

Both of these examples show us that faith does not need to have perfect theological clarity in order to experience Jesus' transforming power. And aren't you thankful for that? He is gracious. The key to faith is that it be rightly directed. It's not our faith that saves us. It's Christ who saves us. The faith in this passage, imperfect as it was, was directed at Jesus. And though this faith lacked clarity, notice what it did possess. In both Jairus and this woman, their faith was demonstrated by humility. They had put aside all of their pride. Both of them fell down in front to Jesus. Both of them, Jairus and this lady, their faith demonstrated persistence. They were willing to overcome any obstacle to get to Jesus. Their faith was embodied in action. They actually did something because of what they believed. Faith ultimately is something that can be seen. And, the other thing that you notice about their faith is that it was impelled by desperation. They had to get to Christ. He was their only hope. And Christ graciously received them. My hope is in the Lord because He's available, He's impartial, and He's gracious. And, fourthly Jesus is powerful.

Jesus is powerful. Verses 35 through 42. "While he was still speaking, they came from the house of the synagogue official, saying, "Your daughter has died; why trouble the Teacher anymore?" But Jesus, overhearing what was being spoken, said to the synagogue official, 'Do not be afraid any longer, only believe.' And He allowed no one to accompany Him, except Peter and James and John the brother of James. They came to the house of the synagogue official; and He saw a commotion, and people loudly weeping and wailing. And entering in, He said to them, 'Why make a commotion and weep? The child has not died, but is asleep.' They began laughing at Him. But putting them all out, He took along the child's father and mother and his own companions, and entered the room where the child was. Taking the child by the hand, He said to her, 'Talitha kum!' (which translated means, 'Little girl, I say to you, get up!'). Immediately the girl got up and began to walk, for she was twelve years old. And immediately they were completely astounded." I guess so. You know to have hope in the midst of hopelessness you need someone who's available. You need somebody who's impartial, you need somebody who's gracious, but they also have to be powerful. Otherwise you can't have real hope. This passage displays the power that Christ has. While Jesus is speaking to this lady that He has healed and saved, messengers come to Jairus telling him his daughter has died. Story's over, Jesus' services will no longer be required. But notice Jesus' response in verse 36. He said to Jairus, don't be afraid, only believe. He says stop being afraid, and continue believing. That's the essence of hope. Don't be afraid, just keep on believing. And hearing the news Jairus no doubt was seized with fear that they were too late, they didn't get there in time. But Jesus tells him, don't worry, just keep on believing. Just like you did when you first came. He says, just like you believed when you first came and fell down in front of Me and asked Me to come. Just keep on believing, just like that. And Jesus now moves with decisive action. He dismisses the crowd, except for three of His disciples. They were selected to be witnesses of His power. Three witnesses being the necessary number to meet the legal requirements of Deuteronomy 17:6. They get to the house and

Jesus dismisses the professional mourners. Now that's a nice little job to have on the side. Professional mourner. Custom was and had been for a long time that in order to show the proper esteem for the deceased was that you hired these mourners to come in and raise a lot of commotion when somebody died. Jairus knew that his daughter's death was imminent so these mourners were on call. And there they are, wailing away. Jesus however sees through their superficial mourning and seeks to quiet them. Verse 38 says that they are loudly weeping and wailing. He enters in and says, why make a commotion and weep, the child has not died she's asleep. Well, what a startling assertion that was. I mean these people hung around dead people. They knew when somebody was dead. This was their job. He said, no she's just asleep. He's using figurative language here. Her death was like sleep. A sleep that would soon be ended. Jesus is about to reawaken her to life. Verse 40 reveals the superficiality of their mourning as they immediately stop their loud weeping and wailing and they start laughing at Him. So it was obviously superficial mourning. They consider His words to be absolutely absurd. They know death when they see it and they start mocking Jesus. But Jesus, verse 40, just dismisses them and then enters the room where the dead girl lies with his three disciples and her parents. There, Jesus touches the dead girl, which is something you just didn't do. You would be considered ceremonially unclean again for doing that. And he speaks tenderly to her. Saying, little girl I say to you, get up! Little girl, I say to you, get up! Just like you would when you go in the room to wake up your little daughter. Hey, it's time to get up. Let's go. And Jesus immediately, verse 42 says, brings her back to life. And the completeness of this powerful work that He does is seen in the fact that she starts walking around the room. And look at the reaction. They were completely astounded. This is better than television. Literally they were astonished with a great astonishment. They were amazed at the display of Jesus' great power.

Jesus has power over death. You can't get more hopeless than that. But in Christ, even death doesn't need to be feared. Here's what amazes me. We can believe that Jesus could cast out demons, right? Do you believe that? Do you believe that story of Him casting out that legion of demons into 2000 pigs? Do you believe that story? Sure, sure you can believe that. Do you believe that He can heal the afflicted like that woman with the hemorrhage? Do you believe He really did that? Sure, you believe that. He can cast out demons, he can heal the afflicted. You probably believe that He can raise the dead. Right? Do you believe this really happened, that he went into that room where that 12 year old girl was dead and He brought her back to life? Do you believe that? So we can believe that He can cast out demons. We believe that He can heal the afflicted. We believe that He can raise the dead. But somehow we don't believe He can handle my problem. What's wrong with our thinking there? He can't help me in my marriage. He can't help me in my situation at work. He can't help me deal with my health issues. Many parents are fearful regarding their children. You believe Jesus can take care of your children? He said to this fearful parent, stop worrying, just believe. You need to stop fearing and keep on believing because Jesus is powerful. He is powerful. My hope is in the Lord because He's available, He's impartial, He's gracious, and He is very powerful.

A fifth reason my hope is in the Lord, because He is gentle. Verse 43. "And He gave them strict orders that no one should know about this, and He said that something should be given her to eat." Jesus gave a strict order here. A strict order. But there was no way that word about this wasn't going to get out. There were people who knew that the girl had died and now they're going to see her alive. You think

they're going to keep that secret? In fact, Matthew 9:26 tells us that the news went out into all the land. There's something interesting to take note of. Back in the gospels we read several times of Jesus telling people, don't tell anybody about what I did. And they always go and tell everybody. Nowadays He's saying to you and me, go tell everybody who I am and what I do, and we don't tell anybody. Now why did Jesus give that strict order? I believe it was a demonstration of His thoughtfulness of the girl to protect her from becoming a spectacle to being on the cover of every one of those magazines in the checkout stand at the grocery store. Dead girl raised to life! Jesus is gentle. And we clearly see that in the other command that's given here where He says, get her something to eat. Just a little statement but it made such an impression, it's recorded in the gospels that Jesus said, get her something to eat. This girl may have been sick for many days, perhaps hasn't eaten in all that time. So in the Greek it says go get her something from In-N-Out Burger! A double double outta do it. Hey, what a beautiful insight into the gentleness of our Savior. He wants to protect this girl from becoming a spectacle and He's concerned that she be given something to eat. How gentle is that? This text provides strong encouragement to you and me to set our hope on the Lord. Set our hope on the Lord. And I believe that this is really important. There are lots of people and lots of churches struggling with discouragement and discord and depression and divorce. And in many cases if not all it's because they have a misplaced hope. Their hope was in their circumstances. Their hope was in their job. Their hope was in their friends. Their hope was in their possessions. Their hope was in their church. Their hope was in their marriage or something else. And then things didn't go the way they hoped that they would. The solution is set your hope on the Lord, on Christ. He is our hope. Where is your hope today? Can you honestly say, my hope is in the Lord? You can because of what we see in this text, that Jesus is available. He will hear you when you call. You can put your hope in Him because He is impartial, He responds to whoever calls. You can have your hope in Him because He's gracious even to an imperfect call. You can have your hope in Him because He's powerful to answer you call. Some of you might feel like you have a child who is as good as dead. You can put your hope in the Lord. He can bring the dead back to life. And you can have your hope in the Lord because He's gentle. He answers in a very personal way. Let's each one of us just examine our own hearts, deal with anything that keeps us from saying my hope is in the Lord. Put aside any false hopes that we have and fix our hope on the Lord. And then we can all sing the song we're about to sing: My Hope is in the Lord. Let's pray.

Father we live in a world that's filled with false hopes. It's so easy for us to get distracted, to place our hope in other things. Things that can't produce. Things that might even be good things in and of themselves, but things that we can't place our hope in. There's only one place to fix our hope and that's the Lord Jesus Christ. I pray Lord that we might be encouraged tonight by this reminder regarding our Savior and all of these reasons why we can fix our hope on Him. I pray Lord that that would be true for each one of us, that you would help us to look to our Savior and find hope in Him. A hope that we can't find anywhere else. A hope that satisfies like nothing else. We thank You Lord for this time we've had tonight just to reflect on these things and to be encouraged and built up and have our hope fixed. And we pray this in the name of our Savior, who is our hope. Amen.