



LIFE GROUP STUDY NOTES

5 March 2014

TITLE: FEAR, FIRST ENEMY OF FAITH

TEXT: Mark 5:21-43

35 While He was still speaking, some came from the ruler of the synagogue's house who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?" 36 As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not be afraid; only believe." 37 And He permitted no one to follow Him except Peter, James, and John the brother of James. Mark 5:35-37

INTRODUCTION

It is very important for believers to understand faith itself. It's also critical to understand what undermines faith. What things can pollute and nullify your faith? What are the "enemies" of true faith? In this series we shall study the 7 Enemies of Faith. This week we consider the first enemy of faith, that is, FEAR.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION & REFLECTION

1. Who was Jairus? Why did he come to Jesus? See v23.
2. What delayed Jesus' arrival at Jairus' house to heal the ruler's daughter? Do we also experience delays in our miracles? In Jesus' current position (after His ascension) do the same limitations affect us today? Why or why not?
3. What happened to Jairus' daughter during the Lord's "delay"? What advice did the messengers from Jairus' house give the synagogue leader? From a human standpoint, was that reasonable advice? From God's viewpoint, what was the truth?
4. What did Jesus tell the synagogue leader when the bad news arrived? In your experience, does fear also often attack us when we face crises?
5. According to Jesus' counsel, what must we resist first when we are faced with a crisis? Does the fact that Jesus instructs us not to fear imply that it is possible to resist the spirit of fear? Sometimes we behave as though to be fearful is perfectly acceptable and normal. Should we?
6. What does it mean to "only believe"?
7. How were people reacting to the tragedy when Jesus arrived (vv38-39)? Why did Jesus limit the number of people that accompanied Him when He performed the miracle? See vv37, 40.
8. Do we sometimes have "wailers" and "mourners" around us when we need supernatural intervention? How can we manage our circle of friends to ensure that fearful whiners and doubters around us do not hamper our breakthroughs?