



Fear and Faith



Luke 8:41-56

Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue at Capernaum, came to see Jesus. His daughter was near death, and he believed Jesus could heal her. Jesus went with him, but as they walked, a messenger gave them devastating news. The girl had died. Since death is irreversible, the situation seemed hopeless. At that point Jesus said, **“Be not afraid, only believe”** (*Mark 5:36*).

Fear and faith are incompatible. They cannot live together, nor can they coexist. When fear is in control, faith is absent; when a person trusts, fear must flee the scene and disappear. Fear focuses on the problems and the obstacles; faith focuses on God who can solve any problem. Fear is tossed to and fro by circumstances; faith is locked into God’s promises. Fear sees the storm clouds; faith knows that behind those clouds is the Sun of Righteousness, to shine upon His child with beams of healing.

Fear sees no hope, no solution, and no remedy; faith says, “Is anything too hard for the Lord? God is able!” Fear is controlled by circumstances; faith is locked into God’s Word and hears God’s calming voice, “Peace, be still.” Fear imagines all kinds of frightening outcomes; faith sees God’s good hand working out His purposes (*Rom. 8:28*).

Sure, it takes a lot of courage to put things in God’s hands, to give ourselves completely, our lives, our hopes, our plans; to follow where He leads us and make His will our own; but all it takes is foolishness to go the way alone!

David could have said, “I have every right to be afraid. My enemies daily threaten to swallow me up, and there are so many who fight against me!” (*Psalms 56:2*). And yet David knew the secret of finding peace in the midst of trouble: **“What time I am afraid, I will trust in Thee”** (*Psalms 56:3*).

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org



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