

# A Minister's Worst Visit

*"Little girl, I say to you, get up."  
Mark 5:41 (NIV)*

It is not easy to grade the difficulty of some of my visits but one particular situation I sometimes am involved in is the death of a child. As a parent I have some small idea of what is happening to the parents emotionally as they stand by the deathbed of their child.

I have come close to losing one of my children but my son was spared and so I cannot enter fully into the suffering of such parents who lose a child. I do not even wish to imagine how much pain it involves to say "Goodbye" to your child. Visiting parents on such an occasion is the hardest part of my work.

Jesus was in such a situation in our verse today. A man named Jairus, who was a ruler in a synagogue, had come to Jesus pleading for Him to come and heal his little girl who was dying. Jesus started on the way to the man's home. As they went along some men from the home of Jairus came with the bad news that the little girl had died and so Jesus should not be bothered any more.

The man's heart must have broken at the news but Jesus

said something marvellous to Jairus. "Don't be afraid, just believe." Mark 5:36 (NIV). So on they went to the home where the young girl lay. Jesus spoke to the crowd and told them to stop the weeping as the little girl was not dead but asleep. The crowd attending the home laughed at Jesus. They knew the child had died and did not understand Jesus' comment.

Jesus put the scoffers out and only took with Him into the house the parents, Peter, James and John. He then took the five with Him into the girl's room and took her by the hand. Then He said, "Little girl, I say to you, get up." (NIV). The child immediately arose to the astonishment of those present. Jesus then told the parents to give her some food.

In seeking to minister to grieving parents I try to point them to this same Jesus, Who has power over even death itself. We know that Jesus did not raise all of the dead around the country as He moved along. However, He did enough miracles of resurrection to make it clear that

He had power over even death itself, our ultimate enemy.

If you grieve the loss of a loved one you may look to this Jesus and seek from Him reassurances that you shall see the loved one again. For believers, death is just a temporary break in the relationship, and we should comfort each other with these thoughts.

All who love Jesus and look for His second coming have great assurance in the presence of death. Jesus has conquered our worst enemy and that defeat means that when we sorrow the loss of a loved one, we can reduce the pain of loss with the certain knowledge that Jesus is a risen Saviour. He shall bring all of His people with Him when He returns in glory to judge the world.

If you mourn today listen to Jesus say, "Don't be afraid, just believe." Mark 5:36 (NIV). Trust in Jesus and you shall have the peace that is beyond all explanation. Listen to Jesus and be blessed.