

MARK 5:35-43**JESUS, JUST A WORD...**

³⁵ While Jesus was still speaking, some men came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue ruler. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher any more?" ³⁶ Ignoring what they said, Jesus told the synagogue ruler, "Don't be afraid; just believe." ³⁷ He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. ³⁸ When they came to the home of the synagogue ruler, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. ³⁹ He went in and said to them, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep." ⁴⁰ But they laughed at him. After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. ⁴¹ He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha koum!" (which means, "Little girl, I say to you, get up!"). ⁴² Immediately the girl stood up and walked around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. ⁴³ He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.

With his words, Jesus reassures and calms the distraught father. With his words, Jesus challenges the assumptions of the crowd. With his words, Jesus commands the child to live. There are no incantations, or physical manipulations, or even prayers. Jesus simply speaks his will and it happens. "Little girl, I say to you, get up!"

*We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
(Nicene Creed, BCP, p358)*

In Genesis chapter 1, we are told that God created all things by speaking the Word. In John chapter 1, we learn that Jesus is the Word made flesh. In this chapter, we see Jesus as the creative Word at work. He who created is the One who will re-create (a new heaven and a new earth, Isaiah 66:22, 2 Peter 3:13). This same One is working in the world and in our lives. He is the only One who can calm the storms of life and deliver us from the chaos of our sins. His message to all who come to him is, "Don't be afraid; just believe."

"I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" Amen. (Mark 9:24)