

Sunday, June 28th. This week we're going to look at the Gospel.

Think: a bit of info before you read...

Mark wrote his Gospel somewhere between 30 and 50 years after Jesus had died, and he wrote it down to make sure people didn't forget the stories about Jesus, and to make sure that other people could hear them too.

Let's pray: *Holy Spirit, speak to me through your word...*

Mark 5:21-24, 35-43

After Jesus crossed over by boat, a large crowd met him at the seaside. One of the meeting-place leaders named Jairus came. When he saw Jesus, he fell to his knees, beside himself as he begged, "My dear daughter is at death's door. Come and lay hands on her so she will get well and live." Jesus went with him, the whole crowd tagging along, pushing and jostling him.

While he was still talking, some people came from the leader's house and told him, "Your daughter is dead. Why bother the Teacher any more?"

Jesus overheard what they were talking about and said to the leader, "Don't listen to them; just trust me."

He permitted no one to go in with him except Peter, James, and John. They entered the leader's house and pushed their way through the gossips looking for a story and neighbours bringing in casseroles. Jesus was abrupt: "Why all this busybody grief and gossip? This child isn't dead; she's sleeping." Provoked to sarcasm, they told him he didn't know what he was talking about.

But when he had sent them all out, he took the child's father and mother, along with his companions, and entered the child's room. He clasped the girl's hand and said, "Talitha koum," which means, "Little girl, get up." At that, she was up and walking around! This girl was twelve years of age. They, of course, were all beside themselves with joy. He gave them strict orders that no one was to know what had taken place in that room. Then he said, "Give her something to eat."

THE MESSAGE

Reflect: In this story, Jesus takes what looks like an impossible situation, and turns it on its head. The little girl has died... but by the end of the story she is up and walking and eating! Like last week's Gospel reading, this is another moment that makes us and the disciples stop and think – who is this man?! Which *man* can bring people back to life?? There must be more to Jesus than meets the eye...

Action: It's true that Jesus can work miracles and change lives – not just in the old stories, but today. He can work powerfully in our lives too. Who could you pray for today? Is there a miracle you need in your own life? Or could you pray for someone else? Take a moment to do that.