

Dealing with the impossible

Opening text: Matthew 9:18-26

1. An impossible request

Jairus came to Jesus with an impossible situation and an impossible request. His daughter was not just sick but she had died. Death is considered the ultimate impossibility – humanly speaking it is final and irreversible.

However, he pleaded with Jesus, “*But come lay your hand on her and she will live!*”!

What does Jesus do with a prayer like that? Have you ever been faced with an impossible situation and prayed an ‘impossible’ prayer?

Sometimes impossible situations do require impossible prayers:

In **Acts 27:29** we read how in the middle of a terrible storm, in the middle of the night, Paul and his companions “*prayed for day to come*”.

“*Prayed for day to come*”? - that is an impossible prayer. Can you pray for that? There is a number of hours assigned to the darkness of the night. You can't have sunrise at 3 in the morning (unless you live in Antarctica or somewhere in the North Pole). This was an unreasonable prayer and absurd prayer, an impossible prayer.

What does Jesus do with a prayer like that?

Several people in the Bible prayed unreasonable prayers:

- Joshua prayed and the sun stood still (Joshua 10:12-14)
- Elijah was a man with the same nature as ours and he prayed that it wouldn't rain for 3 years and then that it would rain again and God heard his prayer.
- Peter asked Jesus to walk on the waters (“if it is you command me to go to you on the water” – Matthew 14:28-29)

2. An ‘illegal’ prayer

Not only Jairus' request was impossible but it was also ‘illegal’. How could Jairus ask Jesus to go and lay His hand on his daughter? He was the leader of the synagogue, a teacher of the Torah, and he knew that according to Numbers 19:11-12, touching a corpse was the most defiling kind of uncleanness.

However, his faith knew no limitations! He believed that Jesus couldn't be defiled by something He could defeat!

And indeed, Jesus defeated death. His own resurrection is a testament to it. If Jesus did this what can He not do?

An impossible prayer is not impossible for God to answer.

3. Impossible expectations

Jairus had an impossible expectation.

When Jesus arrived at the house, the crowd expected a funeral but Jairus expected a resurrection.

How does Jesus deal with impossible expectations?

I believe that God can handle our unreasonable expectations if they are within the will of God. In fact, I think we sometimes expect too little. It is Ok to expect great things from God!

God wants us to believe more and expect more!

He is big enough for any impossible prayer. No demand overwhelms God!

“He went in and took her by the hand and the girl arose”!
V25b