

Mark 5:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And, behold, there cometh one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name; and when he saw him, he fell at his feet,

Analysis

Jairus, 'one of the rulers of the synagogue,' came and 'fell at his feet.' The phrase 'rulers of the synagogue' (ἀρχισυναγώγων) indicates official position—responsible for synagogue order, service arrangements, and administration. Despite his status, Jairus humbled himself, falling at Jesus' feet in desperate supplication. This demonstrates that crisis drives pride aside—social position and theological reservations vanish when loved ones face death. The synagogue ruler approaching Jesus publicly shows faith overcoming potential criticism from religious establishment. Desperate need produces humble faith.

Historical Context

Synagogue rulers were respected community leaders, often educated and wealthy. Their position involved organizing worship, selecting readers and teachers, maintaining order. Jairus risked much by publicly approaching Jesus—scribes and Pharisees opposed Jesus, and synagogue rulers generally aligned with establishment. His public approach showed desperation and faith. Falling at Jesus' feet was posture of supplication and honor, acknowledging Jesus' superior authority. Ancient Mediterranean honor-shame culture made such public humility significant—powerful person submitting to controversial teacher. Early church emphasized that genuine faith transcends social barriers and religious politics.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does crisis strip away pride and theological pretense, revealing desperate heart-need?
2. What prevents you from humbling yourself before Jesus, and what would it take to overcome that barrier?
3. How does Jairus' public faith despite potential criticism model courageous trust?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἰδοὺ, ἔρχεται εἷς τῶν ἀρχισυναγώγων
And behold there cometh one of the rulers of the synagogue
G2532 G2400 G2064 G1520 G3588 G752

ὄνόματι Ἰάειρος καὶ ἰδὼν αὐτοῦ πίπτει πρὸς τοὺς
by name Jairus And when he saw him he fell at G3588
G3686 G2383 G2532 G1492 G846 G4098 G4314

πόδας αὐτοῦ
feet him
G4228 G846

Additional Cross-References

Luke 13:14 (Parallel theme): And the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because that Jesus had healed on the sabbath day, and said unto the people, There are six days in which men ought to work: in them therefore come and be healed, and not on the sabbath day.

Acts 13:15 (Parallel theme): And after the reading of the law and the prophets the rulers of the synagogue sent unto them, saying, Ye men and brethren, if ye have any word of exhortation for the people, say on.

Acts 18:17 (Parallel theme): Then all the Greeks took Sosthenes, the chief ruler of the synagogue, and beat him before the judgment seat. And Gallio cared for none of those things.

Acts 18:8 (Parallel theme): And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.

Mark 5:33 (Parallel theme): But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth.

Luke 5:8 (Parallel theme): When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.

Revelation 22:8 (Parallel theme): And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things.

Mark 5:38 (Parallel theme): And he cometh to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and seeth the tumult, and them that wept and wailed greatly.

Matthew 2:11 (Parallel theme): And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

Luke 8:28 (Parallel theme): When he saw Jesus, he cried out, and fell down before him, and with a loud voice said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God most high? I beseech thee, torment me not.