

# Mark 5:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And besought him greatly, saying, My little daughter lieth at the point of death: I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live.

## Analysis

Jairus begged earnestly: 'My little daughter lieth at the point of death: I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live.' The phrase 'little daughter' (θυγάτριόν, diminutive form) expresses tender affection. 'At the point of death' (ἐσχάτως ἔχει) literally means 'has it extremely'—desperate situation. Jairus' request: 'come and lay thy hands on her'—he believed Jesus' physical presence and touch necessary for healing. His faith: 'she shall be healed and she shall live' (σωθῇ καὶ ζήσῃ) expresses confident expectation. The verb 'begged' (παρακαλεῖ, imperfect tense) indicates persistent, repeated pleading. Faith mixed with desperation.

## Historical Context

Touching for healing appears throughout Jesus' ministry—He touched lepers (Mark 1:41), blind (Mark 8:23), and deaf (Mark 7:33). Ancient world understood physical contact conveying power. Jairus' request reflects this belief, which Jesus affirmed through His healing touch. The verb 'healed' (σωθῆ, from σώζω) means saved/healed—same word used for salvation, indicating physical and spiritual deliverance connection. The father's faith, though imperfect (still thinks Jesus must be present physically), was genuine and Jesus responded. Early church learned that faith need not be perfect to be effective—weak faith in strong Christ accomplishes much.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does Jairus' desperate faith encourage you when your prayers feel inadequate?
2. What does Jesus' response to imperfect but genuine faith teach about His compassion?
3. How can you persist in prayer like Jairus when facing desperate circumstances?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ παρεκάλει αὐτῷ πολλὰ λέγων ὅτι Τὸ θυγάτριόν  
And besought him greatly saying G3754 G3588 little daughter  
G2532 G3870 G846 G4183 G3004 G2365

μου ἐσχάτως ἔχει ἵνα ἐλθὼν ἐπιθῆς αὐτῷ  
My lieth at the point of death and I pray thee come lay him  
G3450 G2079 G2192 G2443 G2064 G2007 G846

τὰς χεῖρας ὅπως σωθῇ καὶ ζήσεται  
thy hands that she may be healed And she shall live  
G3588 G5495 G3704 G4982 G2532 G2198

## Additional Cross-References

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**Luke 13:13** (Parallel theme): And he laid his hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.

**Mark 16:18** (Parallel theme): They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

**Luke 4:40** (Parallel theme): Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.

**Acts 28:8** (Prayer): And it came to pass, that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and of a bloody flux: to whom Paul entered in, and prayed, and laid his hands on him, and healed him.

**Mark 8:23** (Parallel theme): And he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw ought.

**Mark 7:32** (Parallel theme): And they bring unto him one that was deaf, and had an impediment in his speech; and they beseech him to put his hand upon him.

**Luke 4:38** (Parallel theme): And he arose out of the synagogue, and entered into Simon's house. And Simon's wife's mother was taken with a great fever; and they besought him for her.