

Mark 5:42

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And straightway the damsel arose, and walked; for she was of the age of twelve years. And they were astonished with a great astonishment.

Analysis

And straightway the damsel arose, and walked; for she was of the age of twelve years. And they were astonished with a great astonishment. The miracle's immediate verification follows Jesus' command. 'Straightway' (εὐθύς, euthys)—Mark's characteristic word—stresses instant response: no gradual recovery but immediate, complete restoration. 'The damsel arose, and walked' (ἀνέστη τὸ κοράσιον καὶ περιεπάτει, anestē to korasion kai periepatei) demonstrates total healing—not merely revived but fully functional. The verb περιπατέω (peripateō) means to walk around, indicating active movement, not weak stumbling. She wasn't merely not-dead; she was vibrantly alive.

'She was of the age of twelve years' notes her age, probably indicating she was on the threshold of womanhood (bat mitzvah age). The detail's theological significance: the woman with hemorrhaging suffered twelve years; this girl lived twelve years. The number connects the two healings—both received complete restoration through Christ's power. 'They were astonished with a great astonishment' (ἐξέστησαν ἐκστάσει μεγάλη, exestēsan ekstasei megalē) uses emphatic repetition (cognate accusative: astonished with astonishment)—they were utterly amazed, overwhelmed with wonder. Even these believers who witnessed Jesus' miracles stood in awe before resurrection power. This foreshadows the greater astonishment at Jesus' own resurrection.

Historical Context

Twelve years old marked significant transition in Jewish culture—girls approaching bat mitzvah age, eligible for betrothal, entering womanhood. Her death at this threshold made it especially poignant—life's promise cut short. The detail that she walked proved this wasn't resuscitation requiring recovery period but complete, instantaneous restoration to full health and strength. Ancient medical understanding recognized that near-death experiences or serious illness required convalescence; her immediate walking defied natural patterns. The witnesses' extreme astonishment was warranted—while Jesus had healed many diseases, this was likely the first resurrection they witnessed (chronologically, this and the raising of the widow of Nain's son, Luke 7:11-17, were Jesus' first resurrection miracles). Later, Lazarus would be raised after four days dead (John 11), even more dramatic. Early church tradition held that this girl (named Jaira in some apocryphal sources) lived into old age as testimony to Christ's power, though Scripture doesn't confirm this. The miracle established Jesus' authority over death itself, previewing His ultimate resurrection victory.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does the immediate and complete nature of this resurrection prefigure the instant, total transformation believers will experience in the final resurrection?
2. What 'dead' areas of your life—hope, relationships, faith, purpose—need to hear Christ's command 'Arise' for resurrection and restoration?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	εὐθὲως	ἀνέστη	τὸ	κοράσιον	καὶ	περιεπάτει·	ἦν
And	straightway	arose	G3588	the damsel	And	walked	she was
G2532	G2112	G450		G2877	G2532	G4043	G2258
γὰρ	ἐτῶν	δώδεκα	καὶ	ἐξέστησαν	ἐκστάσει		
for	years	of the age of twelve	And	they were astonished	astonishment		
G1063	G2094	G1427	G2532	G1839	G1611		
μεγάλῃ							
with a great							
G3173							

Additional Cross-References

Mark 6:51 (Parallel theme): And he went up unto them into the ship; and the wind ceased: and they were sore amazed in themselves beyond measure, and wondered.

Mark 7:37 (Parallel theme): And were beyond measure astonished, saying, He hath done all things well: he maketh both the deaf to hear, and the dumb to speak.

Mark 1:27 (Parallel theme): And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new doctrine is this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him.

Mark 4:41 (Parallel theme): And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?