

Matthew 9:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But when the people were put forth, he went in, and took her by the hand, and the maid arose.

Analysis

After clearing the room, 'he went in, and took her by the hand, and the maid arose' (εισελθων εκρατησεν της χειρος αυτης και ηγερθη το κορασιον). The simple gesture—taking her hand—demonstrates Jesus' tender compassion even in miracle-working. He doesn't shout commands or perform elaborate rituals; He gently takes the dead child's hand. Touching a corpse made one ceremonially unclean (Numbers 19:11-13), but Jesus' holiness overcomes uncleanness rather than being contaminated by it. 'The maid arose' (ηγερθη, from εγειρω) uses the resurrection verb, anticipating Jesus' own rising. The miracle is immediate and complete. Jesus demonstrates authority over death itself, previewing His ultimate victory. This intimate, gentle raising of a child reveals Jesus' heart: power without harshness, authority without distance, divinity without detachment.

Historical Context

The parents would have prepared the body for burial according to Jewish custom—washing, anointing, wrapping. The professional mourners' presence indicated the death was official. For Jesus to touch the corpse violated purity laws but reflected His consistent prioritization of compassion over ceremonial cleanness. Early church fathers saw this miracle as prefiguring Jesus' resurrection and the general resurrection. The church's confidence in resurrection stems from Jesus' demonstrated power over death. Historical testimony to this miracle helped establish Jesus' credentials as Messiah.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' gentle touch of the dead child reveal His character?
2. What does this miracle teach about Jesus' power over death and preview about resurrection?
3. How should Jesus' authority over death comfort Christians facing loss and grief?

Interlinear Text

ὅτε	δὲ	ἐξεβλήθη	ὁ	ὄχλος	εἰσελθὼν	ἐκράτησεν	τῆς
when	But	were put forth	G3588	the people	he went in	and took	G3588
G3753	G1161	G1544		G3793	G1525	G2902	
χειρὸς	αὐτῆς	καὶ	ἠγέρθη	τὸ	κοράσιον		
by the hand	her	and	arose	G3588	the maid		
G5495	G846	G2532	G1453		G2877		

Additional Cross-References

Mark 9:27 (Parallel theme): But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose.

Mark 5:41 (Parallel theme): And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise.

Mark 1:31 (Parallel theme): And he came and took her by the hand, and lifted her up; and immediately the fever left her, and she ministered unto them.

Luke 8:54 (Parallel theme): And he put them all out, and took her by the hand, and called, saying, Maid, arise.

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.

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