

Lord I believe! Help my unbelief!

²⁴ *Immediately the boy's father cried out, "I believe! Help my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24)*

Purim 2018 starts this Wednesday, February 28, 2018. When we read the entire Book (Scroll) of Esther in our KS celebration, we will meet the unsung hero of the Book – Esther's uncle *Mordecai* (*Umm!*): *"There was a Jewish man in the Shushan palace whose name was Mordecai (UMMMMM!), son of Jair son of Shimei, son of Kish, a Benjamite"* (Esther 2:5). *Jair* and his sons are important people. Let's meet another one.

⁴⁰ *As Yeshua returned, the crowd welcomed Him, for they were all expecting Him.* ⁴¹ *And here came a man named Jairus (Ya'ir, CJB), a leader in the synagogue. Falling at Yeshua's feet, he begged Him to come to his house,* ⁴² *because his only daughter, about twelve years old, was dying. But as He made His way, the masses were crushing in upon Him.* ⁴³ *And there was a woman with a blood flow for twelve years...*

⁴⁹ *While He was still speaking, someone comes from the house of the synagogue leader, saying, "Your daughter has died. Don't bother the Teacher anymore."* ⁵⁰ *But hearing this, Yeshua replied to him, "Do not fear – just keep trusting, and she shall be restored."* (Luke 8:40-43, 49-50)

Who is this *Jairus*? He is an important man in the community. He is a leader in the synagogue – an elder perhaps? He is important in his town, and he has clout but he recognizes his limitations. He understands his human condition and understands that he has no power over life and death. He loves his family, he is doing right for his people, and he has built a good reputation. But he humbles himself in the sight of the Lord, he understands his limitations but the **MASTER** is here. So *Jairus*, on his knees pleads with the Lord to save his daughter. *Yeshua* has apparently listened to his plea, but *"as He made His way"* (perhaps going toward *Jairus'* house)...

Jairus is the Hebrew name *Jair* (*Ya'ir*.) We first encounter him in Numbers 32:39, 41: ³⁹ *"The sons of Machir son of Manasseh ...* ⁴¹ *Jair, a son of Manasseh, went and captured their settlements and named them Jair's Villages."* *Ya'ir* comes from the Hebrew word '*Or*' which means light. He is a descendant of Joseph's oldest son *Manasseh* whose mother was a *Ger* (an Egyptian). *Jair* means: *enlightener*. The enlightener is among the first sons of *Manasseh* to capture enemy territory in Numbers 32. Where did they capture this land? In Gilead! What does he do with this land? He establishes cities of *enlightened life* (*Chavot Ya'ir*). *Ya'ir* took the land from the enemy's hands! (Deut. 3:13-14 *"The rest of the Gilead and all of the Bashan, the kingdom of Og, I gave to the half-tribe of Manasseh... Jair son of Manasseh took all the region of the Bashan and called it after his own name, Chavoth-Jair's Villages, as it is the case to this day."*) Thus, *Bashan* went from being the land of *Og* to become *Chavot-Ya'ir* a city of enlightened life.

We also read in 1 Chronicles 20:5: *"Again there was war with the Philistines, and Elhanan the son of Jair killed Lahmi, the brother of Goliath, whose spear had a shaft like a weaver's beam."* *Ya'ir's* children perform mighty deeds, they are mighty in spirit and they are warriors for the Lord. *Ya'ir* and his children are heroes, men of valor and wisdom, men whose deeds we read about, men who saved our people – *Mordecai* being one of those prominent children.

Jair and his sons are accustomed to facing death. What do we need to do when death surrounds us, when the circumstances are such that even with the Master's attention, He is "too busy" to dedicate time for us? What do we do today when the volume and pressure of life weights us down and reduces us to spectators? Do you feel, like I do at times, that the freight train of life is moving on and even if we had the energy, can anyone stop it? *Yeshua* said to *Ya'ir*: *"just keep trusting Me and it will be OK!"* What? *Keep Trusting Me?* 'You've got to be kidding me! Lord, can't you see that my situation is an emergency? Things are bad, Lord! I am not coming to you with a 5¢ problem – this this is a life and death situation! In fact, it is not even for my own self, it is for my daughter! It is not about me, Lord, don't you care?'

But even descendants of heroes are tempted by circumstances and during the visitation and presence of THE MASTER. He must have turned toward *Yeshua* and maybe even without speaking looks at him with a look of despair: ⁵⁰*But hearing this, Yeshua replied to him, "Do not fear – just keep trusting, and she shall be restored."* What is Jairus going to do? Is he going to scream, have a heart attack, despair, have a breakdown or give up? What would you do? You are told that your daughter is now dead. You were not even there when it happened. You were trying to find help, you found it, but help could not get to your need fast enough. Now you do not have the chance to hug her goodbye – your pride and joy, your only child, your sugarplum, and your sunshine – she is gone! No one has escaped death, death is final, death is terrible *and* death is Satan's number one weapon. But, let us to focus on Jairus, the enlightened one. He does none of these things, at least, not externally. What does he do? The text tells us that he does exactly what *Yeshua* says to do, and being true to his heritage he becomes a witnesses of more abundant life; he witnesses the resurrection (the return of life), the establishment of life, the conquering of *Og*, *Goliath* and the sons of *Goliath*, the conquering of the giants of lust and fullness of food. No matter what the weapon (a spear like a weaver's beam) formed against him was *Jairus* did overcome! Can you rejoice with *Jairus* as we conclude *Luke 8*:

⁵¹*When Yeshua came into the house, He didn't let anyone enter with Him except Peter, John, Jacob, and the child's father and mother. ⁵²And everyone was weeping and lamenting her; but He said, "Don't weep, for she didn't die but is sleeping." ⁵³But they were ridiculing Him, knowing she had died. ⁵⁴But Yeshua, took her by the hand and called out, saying, "Child, get up!" ⁵⁵Her spirit returned, and she arose immediately. Yeshua ordered food to be given to her to eat. ⁵⁶Her parents were utterly astonished, but He ordered them to say nothing of what had happened" (Luke 8:51-56).*

Yeshua said: *"I have come to give life, and life more abundantly."* To *Jairus* (the enlightened one) He gave life. *Jairus* who founded cities of life now reaps in *Yeshua* the very thing he sowed. If we sow righteousness, we will reap righteousness, if we do not faint. If we sow destruction, we will reap destruction, even if we faint. To *Martha* the sister of *Lazarus*, He gives the promise of the life He had just finished saying He was capable of giving when He said: *"I am the resurrection and the life! Whoever believes in Me, even if he dies, shall live"* (*John 11:25*). To *Miriam* sister of *Lazarus*, the emotional, grief-stricken, and devastated *Miriam*, He gives compassion and He gives her comfort. He gives her back her brother, that is, He gives her back her family. He gives her back life!

How about you today? *Yeshua* says: *"Trust Me,"* and *"I will give you Life."* I will give you all that you need to live life abundantly and *"I will give you eternal life"*. Is your education impeding your faith? Is your past impeding your trust? Are you in the same boat as *Martha*: *"Lord, I know that my brother will rise again at the Resurrection on the Last Day."* Does your past experience prevent you from fully trusting in Him? You have heard about Him, you have heard Him preached, and you have seen others believe. *Purim*, the time of one of the sons of *Jairus* is upon us. Therefore we are in the days of the enlightener. What if in your own strength you cannot do it, or if you are unable to? Answer: *Sh'ma* (trust and obey) even if the facts are overwhelming. The Lord *Yeshua* said to *Jairus* *"Trust Me."* It is a matter of faith and trust. Having done all you can, stand therefore and **"TRUST HIM."** Let us pray...