

# THE GOSPEL MAGAZINE

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## *Editorial*

**“REJOICE . . . PRAY . . . GIVE THANKS”**

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

IT HAS BEEN SAID that these three words constitute the standing orders of the Christian Church.

(i) The believers at Thessalonica probably lacked many things on which most people rely for happiness, yet they possessed a deep and abiding joy in Christ. We can rejoice because of what God has done for us and for His promises which never fail.

(ii) We are to live constantly in the spirit of prayer and should have the habit of referring everything to the Lord. Some of the most powerful prayers recorded in the Bible are very brief, like that of the Syrophenician woman – “Lord, help me.” Resolve to be regular in prayer.

(iii) The obligation to thankfulness is often neglected. We frequently forget to thank God for answers to our prayers; we take so much for granted. The Christian ought to be constantly lifting up his heart to God with gratitude for preservation and all the blessings of this life.

How well do we fulfil our standing orders?

# A Desperate Situation Transformed

A Sermon by the Editor

*"And, behold, there cometh one of the rulers of the synagogue,  
Jairus by name; and when he saw him he fell at his feet"  
(Mark 5:22)*

WE KNOW NOTHING of Jairus apart from what we read here in this very moving incident in the Gospel. We know that he was a man of some social and ecclesiastical standing, for he is described as a ruler of the synagogue and, of course, there were not many of his class and rank who sought the help of the Lord Jesus Christ. If the scribes and pharisees were found in Christ's congregation, they were usually there, not as suppliants, but rather as critics, and so it was an unusual thing, and an almost unprecedented thing that one in so high an official position as Jairus should come with such a request and fall at the feet of Jesus.

I want to look at what is a familiar incident and notice –

## 1. A desperate situation

It was certainly that in every sense of the word. When Jairus' daughter became critically ill, his heart, in effect, became a battlefield where love and pride were brought together. Love suggested an appeal to the great Physician: pride, on the other hand, reminded him of the solemn warnings that had been given in the synagogue concerning the itinerant Preacher from Galilee. So Jairus was in a dreadful state because his little one was dying. The doctors that had been called in had done their level best but they were bound to admit failure, and it cost Jairus a good deal to approach the Lord Jesus Christ. It was much more difficult for him to come for help than it was for the beggars and for those afflicted with leprosy, but Jairus had more to give up. He had to humble himself and come and ask the blessing that he needed. Jairus, too, was one of the chief men in the town, if not the chief. Then, Jairus' friends and colleagues, the scribes and the pharisees, why, they had already taken up an attitude of hostility to Christ and, therefore, for Jairus to seek His help was to invite their hatred and contempt. Do you not see the battle that was going on in his heart and in his mind? But sorrow and need made short work of prejudice for, another look at his child's face with the pallor of death spreading over it and the thought of what his home would be like if she was taken, *that settled it*. He would bury his pride; he would go and ask the great Preacher from Galilee to come and heal his child. Oh! yes, sorrow softens a proud heart and brings the soul humbled into the very presence of Christ. Jairus forgot his dignity. He flung himself at the feet of Jesus – his agony was sore, his anguish of soul was intense, and his need was great – and, says Matthew in his account, he not only came to Jesus, but "he worshipped him" and he sobbed out his requests that the