

MONDAY, OCTOBER 15

Mark 5:21-43

Walking with Jesus

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY:** "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live." So he went with him. Mark 5:23b-24

The Bible records the miracle of how Jesus brought a twelve-year-old girl back to life after she had died. Her father, a leader in the synagogue, begged Jesus to come and heal his sick daughter who was near death. Jesus heard the man's request and accompanied the distraught father to his home.

And Jesus walks with us as we face life's challenges. Just as Jesus walked with this father, so he accompanies us when we're heartbroken or fearful. He walks with us when we're facing financial problems, family problems, or health problems. He's by our side during life's setbacks. He walks with us when we are facing life or death issues. He's by our side, and because he is present with us, we are comforted, strengthened, and blessed. We're walking with Jesus!

**PRAYER:** O God, thank you for your presence with me in life's troubles and problems. Amen.

*Ted De Hass—Slater, Iowa (Mr. De Hass passed away in 2017.)*

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16

Matthew 10:40-42

Love Poured Out

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY:** "And if you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded." Matthew 10:42 (NLT)

As the coordinator of a teen coffee house ministry, I have the privilege of getting to know some brilliant kids. They're full of life, brimming with passion about their interests, and they laugh with unreservedness rare among adults. But each week over steaming cups of cappuccino they tell me how domestic abuse, disease, homelessness, death of loved ones, depression, and a slew of other adversities are chipping away at their hearts. And with each story, my heart breaks a little more too. What can be done about such overwhelming suffering?

As much as I wish I could glue the broken pieces of their hearts back together like a shattered mug, I can't. Jesus is the only one with the power to do that. But he can use me. He can pour out his Spirit through my pouring of a fresh cup of tea and offer a sense of his presence as I sit down to offer a listening ear.

Though we can't turn every bitter cup sweet, we can let the love of God overflow and quench the thirsting of those around us. Who needs your listening ear? Whom can you bless with a generous cup of compassion?

**PRAYER:** God, let your love spill through the cracks in my hearts and pour hope into those I meet. Amen.

*Megan L. Anderson—Kokomo, Indiana*