

*Wednesday, December 8, 2004*

*Scripture Reading: Mark 5:39*

*Text for Today: And entering in, He said to them, "Why make a commotion and weep? The child has not died, but is asleep." And they began laughing at Him. But putting them all out, He took along the child's father and mother and His own companions, and entered the room where the child was. And taking the child by the hand He said to her, "Little girl, I say to you, arise!" And immediately the girl rose and began to walk; for she was twelve years old. And immediately they were completely astounded.*

The Bible has many stories recounting the miracles that Jesus performed. Surely, a person living in that time and place – someone that personally witnessed those concrete examples of God's power – must have found it easy to become a believer and devoted follower. And certainly, those early witnesses must have found it very easy, even exciting, to share what they saw with others!

So what's different today? It occurs to me that I have personally witnessed those miracles, and if I pay attention, I see them happening all the time, all around me. When I am blinded by anger or a bruised ego, my prayers for insight and understanding help me see things clearly. When fear, insecurity or indecision paralyzes me, I feel able to take the next step once I've taken the time to ask for, and try to listen to, God's guidance. When people are grief-stricken and lifeless because of the loss of a loved one, they manage to live day-by-day, due either to their faith in God or because they have felt His comforting presence through the love and caring of others.

When we allow Jesus into our lives, miracles occur. And when we share our miraculous experiences, or pray with others, or invite friends to worship with us, or allow ourselves to be a vehicle for the Lord's work, we are sharing the good news. So, how many miracles do we need to see before we believe? The choice is up to us!

Prayer: Dear Lord, You placed Jesus on Earth so He could show us the miracle of Your love. Please open our eyes and our hearts to the miracles You continue to perform in our lives, so we become devoted followers and share Your good news of salvation. Amen.

*Carol Stoddard*

