

Letter 920a
Just Whose Tongue Is It Anyway?
Part 1 - The Proof-Text Trap
2023-06-01

Dear **Yeshua**,

Monday, 29 May 2023, 8:17AM

This Letter documents a series of events which occurred sometime after I started taking the bus to work. I don't remember the exact date(s), but I do remember what occurred. So I will say this occurred in about 2006 (give or take a year or two).

In Letters 479 through 480e Volume 6, I report on some events which occurred in Issaquah, Washington inside a Church building that I had frequented in my youth. After I begin to take the bus to work, one of the stops I used was right next to this church building. Sometimes I would reminisce of the revival meetings my Mom would take me to, that were held at the Church, which was at that time called Bethel Chapel.

My route to the adjacent bus stop would take me right by the front door of the Church. There was a sign that indicated meeting times, along with the Pastor's name (CB86), and a phone number. There was also a mail-slot located on the front of the building.

Somewhere along the line the thought occurred to me to write a note to the Pastor with my name and phone number, saying that I would like to talk with him.

So, one day I took the bus down to Issaquah on one of my days off, and slipped a note into the mail-slot.

A few days later, I got a call from (CB86). We spoke on the phone and he then agreed to meet me for coffee at local cafe.

We had a real good time together, and after that we met a few more times. My wife (M) and I even invited him to join us for dinner at our favorite restaurant.

It turns out the Pastor had many things in common with my wife and me, as he had previously worked as a school custodian, which is what I had done for many years. One of his jobs was at a school building where (M) worked for a time.

But it was at one of our "man to man" get-togethers that I discovered something which I found troubling.

We were talking about Church stuff, when my painful memory of Letter 04 came to mind. By this time I already knew that (CB86) had a strong background in the Pentecostal Church.

If memory serves, I was attempting to explain to (CB86) why I thought that speaking in tongues was **voluntary**, rather than **mandatory**.

To help substantiate my claim, I made this statement:

"I CAN'T FIND ANY PLACE IN SCRIPTURE
WHERE IT SAYS THAT JESUS SPOKE IN TONGUES."

(CB86) stopped for a moment, and then opened his Bible to this Verse:

*Then He took the child by the hand,
and said to her, "Talitha, cumi,"
which is **translated**,
"Little girl, I say to you, arise."
Mark 5:41*

Then he began to use this verse as his proof-text in his attempt to correct me that Jesus had indeed spoken in "tongues", since it had to be translated (see 1 Cor. 12:10).

At that moment in time I could not verbalize any response, but somewhere in my mind I knew that the phrase "which is translated" had something to do with the writer of the book of Mark indicating that what Jesus spoke in Aramaic was being translated into the Greek language.

I now elicit the aid of others whose life's work was studying the Biblical text and identifying how each word structure works.

"and said unto her, Talitha cumi—The words are Aramaic, or Syro-Chaldaic, the then language of Palestine. Mark loves to give such wonderful words just as they were spoken. See Mr 7:34; 14:36."
(Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown Commentary on Mark 5:41)

Mark 5:41. Ταλιθά, κοῦμ, maiden, rise! first instance in which the words of Jesus, as spoken in Aramaic, are given. Jesus may have been a bilingual, sometimes using Greek, sometimes Syriac. He would use the vernacular on a pathetic occasion like this. The word Ταλιθά, feminine of Teli (תֵּלִי), is found in the Hebrew only in the plural (תֵּלִימוֹת).

(Expositor's Greek Testament Mark 5:41)

"Verse 41. - The house was now set free from the perfunctory and noisy crowd; and he goes up to the dead child, and takes her by the hand and says, Talitha cumi; literally Little maid, arise. The evangelist gives the words in the very language used by our Lord - the ipsissima verba, remembered no doubt and recorded by St. Peter; just as he gives "Ephphatha" in another miracle."

(Pulpit Commentary Mark 5:41)

(see www.biblehub.com for all three commentaries)

Please let the reader understand that as I was assembling these comments from their various sources, this verse came to my mind:

*But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law;
for they are unprofitable and useless.*

Titus 3:9

I would like to point out that the Pastor wanted to argue about words, rather than ask why it was important to me to determine whether or not Jesus spoke in tongues.

It was not long after this that we parted “coffee company”, while still remaining friendly in our exchange of emails.

Then, not long after this, (CB86) retired, and moved out of state.

But I have never forgotten our conversation and his words to me (which occurred at Jack-In-The-Box in Issaquah).

I am grateful to the Holy Spirit for coming to my aid in bringing me both comfort and healing from this event by our writing this Letter to Jesus.

Blessings...

R. C. Theophilus