

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JULY 5TH–6TH, 2025 // GOSPEL OF MARK

A REQUEST (MARK 5:21–24)

After the healing of the demoniac in the region of the Gerasenes, Jesus and His disciples cross back over the Sea of Galilee to Jewish territory where they are met by a large crowd (v. 21).

- Pushing through the crowd is a desperate man who falls at the feet of Jesus with an urgent request—his daughter was dying, and he needed a miracle (vs. 22–23).

Mark tells us this man's name was Jairus, and he was a leader of the local synagogue.

- His role in the synagogue was most likely to oversee the building, help plan services, and officiate the spiritual and business affairs within this Jewish community of faith.
- The fact that he was coming to such a controversial figure like Jesus shows that he truly was desperate.

"MY LITTLE DAUGHTER IS DYING..." (V. 23)

We will find out later that his "little daughter" is 12 years old ("Bat Mitzvah," at the age of Jewish maturity/marriage).

- But to Jairus, she is still his little girl! When you are a parent, the pain and suffering of your children becomes your pain and suffering.
- Jairus's fear of losing his little girl overcomes his fear of being judged for reaching out to Jesus.

"COME AND LAY YOUR HANDS ON HER..."

Here is this respected spiritual leader in the Jewish community falling at the feet of Jesus and begging Him earnestly for healing.

- Jairus demonstrates extraordinary faith and confidence in Jesus' ability to heal his daughter.
- He also seemed to believe that Jesus had to be physically present for that to happen.
- Jesus can heal any way He wants (Mt. 8).

"SO JESUS WENT WITH HIM..."

The prayer of faith is the prayer that...

- Puts us in the presence of Jesus.
- Humbles us sincerely before Jesus.
- Lays our requests before Him earnestly and honestly.
- Has total confidence in the power and goodness of Jesus.

WHO TOUCHED ME? (MARK 5:25–34)

If you are Jairus, the urgency of the situation at hand is all-consuming—your little daughter is dying. What could be more important?

- Clearly, Jesus has heard his request. Yet, God works in His own timing and in His own mysterious ways.
- Sometimes, it is difficult for us to believe God has heard us and is responding in His own way when we do not see an immediate response.

"A WOMAN SUFFERING FROM BLEEDING..."

We are introduced to a new character in the narrative: a woman with a serious medical condition.

- She had been bleeding non-stop for 12 years. Obviously, a condition like this must have disrupted and harmed her quality of life from a physical standpoint. It also would have made her ceremonially unclean.

According to Jewish law, a woman having her monthly cycle was unclean for seven days, and anyone who touched her was unclean "until evening" (Lev. 15:19–33).

- This woman had been bleeding for 12 years!
- She would have been considered continually unclean and was probably a social outcast.
- Most likely she would have been unmarried and childless due to her condition.

SHE "HAD ENDURED MUCH UNDER MANY DOCTORS..."

What we know about medical treatment for a condition like this during this time in this part of the world is that doctors had no answers.

- Some remedies involved fishing grain out of cow dung and taking it as a pill. Others involved elixirs of spices and onions. Still others involved startling the patient while she drank wine (Lane, Clarke).

Not only had this poor woman spent everything she had on these quack doctors, under their care she had become worse.

- Isn't this a picture of the human condition? We all have a sickness (the defilement of sin and absence of God in our lives).
- So many search for "the cure" in the stuff of this world—money, sex, drugs, applause, achievement, stuff—and it never works.

In fact, it just makes us worse. We become more empty, dissatisfied, and plagued by a deeper hunger and sickness that we just cannot seem to cure.

- She had heard about Jesus and come to the conclusion that she would be healed if she simply "touched his clothing" (the tassels of His prayer shawl, "zizith," Num. 15:37–41).
- She does so and is instantly healed (v. 29).

"WHO TOUCHED MY CLOTHES?" (VS. 30–32)

These details continue to puzzle scholars and theologians alike. Why did Jesus not know who touched Him? Doesn't He know everything?

- Why did He feel the power go out of Him? Why didn't the apostles in Acts report this same phenomenon?
- There are some things Jesus did not know, such as the day and hour of His return.
- Jesus was not reporting a depletion of healing power but, rather, the transfer of that power to someone who had faith in Him to heal.
- Some interpreters feel that Jesus did know who touched Him, but He did not want the woman to remain anonymous. He wanted to give her a chance to look Him in the face and receive a blessing from Him.

"WITH FEAR AND TREMBLING..." (V. 33)

Jesus had performed a mighty miracle for this woman, but technically, she had broken a ceremonial law by touching Jesus while unclean.

- She came forward, fell at the feet of Jesus, and told Him the "whole truth."

- When we confess, God already knows. There is great freedom in admitting it to ourselves.

"DAUGHTER...YOUR FAITH HAS SAVED YOU." (V. 34)

The same special love and affection that Jairus had towards his little girl, Jesus had for this outcast woman on her knees.

- It really was not touching the clothing of Jesus that healed her. It was the faith she placed in Him.
- Imagine the peace that filled her soul in knowing she had been totally healed by Jesus.

ONLY SLEEPING (MARK 5:35–43)

The healing of the woman must have been an amazing blessing to witness and watch for everyone except for Jairus.

- I imagine his emotional state vacillating between anxiety, annoyance, frustration, and sheer terror. His daughter is dying! Can't everything else wait?
- God works in His timing and has His own mysterious ways of answering our requests.

"YOUR DAUGHTER IS DEAD. WHY BOTHER...?" (V. 35)

While Jesus is speaking to the woman, people came from Jairus' house to report that his daughter had died.

- "Why bother the teacher anymore?" Behind their words lies the presupposition that Jesus' power must not extend to raising the dead.
- The window of opportunity for Jesus to have done something has closed. It is now hopeless.

NO FEAR. ONLY FAITH. (V. 36)

The situation may have seemed hopeless, but Jesus knew exactly what He was about to do.

- He says to Jairus, "*Mê phobou, monon pisteue*" (not fear, only faith).
- Despite all appearances, Jesus is not distracted or disinterested in Jairus' need. He will work in His timing, not in others'. Jesus will not be hurried or rushed. He will do it His way. Only believe.

THE MOCKING MOURNERS (VS. 37–40)

Jesus travels to the house of Jairus with His inner circle (Peter, James, and John) where they are met with the commotion of people weeping and wailing loudly.

- Jewish custom called for the hiring of professional mourners—folks who wailed, wept, and played sad songs on the flute for the family so everyone could grieve without embarrassment.
- Jesus' new reality of the Kingdom understands this little girl is not dead, just asleep, because His arrival redefines death for all of us.
- The mourners (who are all well acquainted with death and dying) start to laugh and mock as Jesus announces this new reality.
- Misery, doubt, despair, and mockery will always draw a following. Faith trusts in what isn't seen.

"LITTLE GIRL...GET UP." (V. 41)

Jesus takes the girl by the hand and speaks to her.

- "*Talitha koum*" is Aramaic, and it is not a magical word like "abracadabra." It is the tender phrase a Jewish parent would say to awaken a small child ("Get up, baby").
- In Jesus, death has become merely a sleep from which all His children will someday be awakened by the sound of His voice.

"IMMEDIATELY THE GIRL GOT UP..." (VS. 42–43)

At the words of Jesus, she immediately got up and began to walk.

- Jesus calls for the girl to get some food—"divine miracles never replace common sense" (Wiersbe).
- As with previous miracles, Jesus orders the witnesses to keep quiet for purposes related to the crowds and His Messianic identity.

DISEASE AND DEATH ARE HUMAN REALITIES

- Our world is broken by the curse of sin and death. Sometimes children die, and long-term illnesses wreak havoc on our lives.
- Our world desperately needs the touch and grace of God through Jesus.
- Jesus cares about the brokenness of our world so much that He came to remake it through His death and resurrection.

JESUS WORKS IN HIS TIMING AND IN HIS WAYS

- Jesus cares about our hurts, needs, and heartaches. Jesus also works in His own timing and in His own mysterious ways.
- Sometimes, Jesus answers prayers quickly; other times He takes His time. Sometimes, Jesus heals immediately; other times He lets His children fall asleep to wake them up later.
- Both are expressions of His perfect love.

WE CAN COME TO JESUS WITH OUR NEEDS

- We can come to Jesus with our hurts, needs, and requests, no matter who we are or what we have done.
- We are to come to Him in faith, believing and not fearing.
- Our faith is not what we trust in. It will always be imperfect. Faith from a sincere heart that trusts in Jesus is what God wants from us.

GOD HONORS FAITH

- God honors the faith of any and all who would come to Him through Jesus. Social status, religious heritage, gender, or any other distinctions do not matter.
- The prayer of faith comes into the presence of Jesus, humble before Him. It tells Him the truth, laying requests before Him simply and trusting in His power and goodness.

FALL AT JESUS' FEET WITH YOUR NEED

- If Jesus was standing in front of you right now, what would you ask Him for?
- Despite all appearances, Jesus is not distracted, indifferent, or disinterested in your need. He will work in His timing, not yours.
- Jesus will not be hurried or rushed: He will do it His way. Only believe and trust.
- No fear. Only faith.