

Call Me Anytime

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Mark 5:21-43

Last Sunday we were traveling with Jesus in the boat when they faced a storm. Then we came across a man who was full of evil spirits, called legion. Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. God's kingdom is at hand. Christ has authority over nature, over demons. Sovereign God is at work through Jesus Christ. Storms will hit us. "Reading Mark helps one learn to trust in a Savior who does not deliver us *from* storms but *through* the storms."¹ There was another point I stressed, after this man healing. He was like a mustard seed planted in Decapolis. God used this man to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.

We will move on to the following passage in the Gospel of Mark where we will meet new characters. Jesus is ready to listen to anyone's cry. "Call me anytime..."

And when Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered about him, and he was beside the sea. ²² Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, and seeing him, he fell at his feet ²³ and implored him earnestly, saying, "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." ²⁴ And he went with him. And a great crowd followed him and thronged about him. (Mark 5:21-24 ESV)

Here we find Jesus back in the eastern part of the sea of Galilee. Again, we find a great crowd waiting. We are introduced to a man called **Jairus**, "one of the rulers of the synagogue." The word is a technical term for "the lay official responsible for the supervision of the synagogue building and the arrangements for the services."²

The man's Hebrew name, Jairus, could mean either "he will enlighten," or "he will arouse or awake"³.

Jairus was desperate. He fell at the feet of Jesus. He was facing a hopeless reality since his daughter was almost dying. **"My little daughter is at the point of death."** She is not in the hospital sick, she is in hospice care, on the edge to die... **"Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live."**

Jesus agrees to go with him to see his daughter.

-Why in the world during the walk Jesus stopped and took care of someone else, an unknown woman?

²⁵ And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, ²⁶ and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. (Mark 5:24-26 ESV)

Let us talk about this woman.

For 12 years she has had a hemorrhage, (discharge of blood). She visited many physicians, and she did spend a lot of money to be healed. Nothing helped her. This means she was an outcast. (Leviticus 15:25-33), she was unclean like a leper. No one was allowed to touch her clothes, and she was not allowed to touch anyone. Can you imagine for 12 years the loneliness that she experienced, not only that she was considered defiled? "This woman was suffering not just physical misery, but social and religious as well. She was banned from the Temple, from being in the presence of the people of God."⁴

She takes a risk by touching the garment of Jesus.

She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. ²⁸ For she said, "If I touch even his garments, I will be made well." ²⁹ And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. (Mark 5:27-29 ESV)

Like Jairus, she approaches Jesus with faith. And behold, she is healed without even talking to Jesus, or even Jesus talking to her. They did not see each other face to face. She just wanted to touch the garment of Jesus from the back.

³⁰ And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone out from him, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my garments?" (Mark 5:30 ESV)

-Let me clarify one thing, there is no biblical verse that teaches us that by touching the garment of Jesus one can be healed. Unfortunately, this concept of touching holy things exists until now. There is nothing magical in the clothes. TV evangelists try to sell you "holy" water from Jerusalem, or holy wood from the cross of Jesus... watch out from superstitious beliefs.

-She did not want to stop Jesus and the crowd who was walking with him. She was thinking, "If only I could touch him; I don't need his hands to touch me; if only

I could touch him from the back.” She was healed as we read. The bleeding stopped. Why did Jesus inquire who touched him?

Who touched me? ³¹ **And his disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, ‘Who touched me?’”** ³² **And he looked around to see who had done it.”** (Mark 5:31, 32 ESV)

Seriously, who touched you? Anyone could have touched you... what kind of question is this?

-Jesus did not stop to humiliate this woman. She was embarrassed; she was outcast; she was nobody; she was considered defiled.

Jesus wanted to reveal this woman to the crowd not to humiliate her, but to restore her. On the contrary, Jesus loves to meet people. Jesus loves relationships because God loves relationships. Let us continue reading:

³³ **But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before him and told him the whole truth.** ³⁴ **And he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”** (Mark 5:33-34 ESV)

-Jesus did not say, your touch made you well. No: **Daughter, your faith has made you well;”**

This is faith towards Jesus. Jesus is the healer. Jesus is the source of healing; Jesus is the one who can heal her completely, restore her completely.⁵

-calling her **daughter**, don't you love that...

-In the end Jesus says: **go in peace, and be healed of your disease.**

Go in peace...it is not just greeting...peace means:

“It covers wholeness, well-being, prosperity, security, friendship, and salvation.”⁶

-Go back to your community, oh woman. You, who were outcast for 12 years, not anymore, go back in peace. You are healed of your disease. How wonderful when Jesus restores us... that is real peace...that is real healing.

Jesus got interrupted, but life is full of interruption... Jesus always has time for anyone... anyone... a nameless woman... nameless person...

-**Jairus is there waiting and observing all these.** “How about my request. I was first in line....”

³⁵ **While he was still speaking, there came from the ruler's house some who said, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?”** ³⁶ **But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, “Do not fear, only believe.”** ³⁷ **And he allowed no one to follow him except Peter and James and John the brother of James.** (Mark 5:35-37 ESV)

Too late Jesus, too late Jairus, she is gone...

I wonder how Jairus felt that moment.

Jesus dealt with the situation saying: **“Do not fear, only believe.”**

“Jairus, you came to me with faith that I could heal her. Stay focused, continue believing...”

Both the unnamed woman and Jairus came to Jesus with trust and faith that Jesus could heal them.

-Jesus takes with him the inner circle, Peter, James and John.

³⁸ They came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and Jesus saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. ³⁹ And when he had entered, he said to them, “Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping.” ⁴⁰ And they laughed at him. But he put them all outside and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him and went in where the child was. ⁴¹ Taking her by the hand he said to her, “Talitha cumi,” which means, “Little girl, I say to you, arise.” ⁴² And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement. ⁴³ And he strictly charged them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat. (Mark 5:38-43 ESV)

Some observations. In those days and until now one can hire professional wailers. They will cry, tear their garments, weep loudly. The size of this group depends on the wealth of the family.⁷ People mocked Jesus. And Jesus “kicked” them out...

Using Aramaic words: **Talitha cumi**, “Little girl, arise...”

And there was life in this 12-year-old girl.

Jesus giving life to this dead girl. I can see faces of those who were mocking Jesus.

I can imagine the face of Jairus.

Jairus witnessed two miracles that day. I wonder what happened in his life after that...

Observation/Application:

1. Who is Jesus?

Just observe and see who Jesus is. The carpenter who forgives sins, heals the paralyzed, calms down the storms, commands demons, cleanses the defiled person, raises from the dead. Who is Jesus?

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God (Mark 1;1 ESV) the Kingdom of God is at hand. The Messiah is here...

Mark's point is this, we are sinners, we are defiled, Israel defiled, we need redemption, and that only can happen when we believe, have faith in Jesus who died on the cross and rose from the death.

The unnamed woman had 12 years of hemorrhage, Jairus daughter's age was mentioned that she was 12 years old. Is there something Mark is telling us? It seems 12 number can remind us 12 tribes of Israel, totality of God's people, this is the family of God; and now with Jesus we have 12 disciples. I wonder if Mark is leading his audience and us towards Jesus saying we all need cleansing and we all are going to be risen one day when Jesus comes back. Thus we are redeemed by Jesus; we are risen by Jesus.

2. You can call Jesus anytime.

You can be from any background, any color, any race, any social status, and Jesus has time for you. Jairus was from the upper class. On the other hand the unnamed woman was nobody from the lower class.

Jesus stopped and paid attention to her the same way he paid attention to Jairus and his family.

"In God's kingdom the nobodies become somebody." God cares for each of us and seeks our faith to be established on him. "Faith enables all, honored and dishonored, clean and unclean, to tap into the merciful power of Jesus that brings both healing and salvation. All are equal before Jesus."⁸

"Call me anytime. I love to hear from you...This is Jesus..."

3. Faith has a major role in these two events.

"The synagogue official and the woman do not come to faith *after* they are healed; they had a *prior* faith that led to their healing".⁹

Faith opens the door of power of God which brings transformation in people's lives. Faith that acts. The ruler went to Jesus for help, although Pharisees did not like Jesus, Jairus took the risk to see Jesus. The woman took the risk by touching Jesus' garment. The four friends made a hole in the roof of the home to bring the paralyzed to Jesus.

It is not a static faith. It is faith that is manifested. We are not secret agents of Jesus.

Does your faith manifest itself? Are you shamed to reveal your faith in Jesus?

4. Not all sickness is healed, nor all dead people are risen.

Evil, sickness, and the death of little children continue to exist in our world.

This passage does not explain why evil exists, and why some are healed and some are not. But it does offer that God cares for each of us, and He is on the side of the oppressed and the outcast. God does listen, and God does save in His way, and not necessary my way.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego expressed their faith saying:

“If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.” (Dan. 3:17–18 NIV)

This is faith...faith that trusts in God, even thou sometimes we don't understand the conditions when we think He is “sleeping”....

Welcome to the Kingdom of God. All of you are welcome... If you lost hope in the world, fine, come to Jesus. The only hope and restoration I can find in Jesus, who cleanses us from shame and guilt, who restores us and transforms us into His image, **“therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.”** (2 Cor 5:17 ESV)

Amen

1. David E. Garland, *The NIV Application Commentary*, Mark P 200
2. C. E. B. Cranfield, *The Gospel According to St. Mark* P 183.
3. Robert Gundry, *Mark: A Commentary on His Apology for the Cross* (P 267.
4. R.C. Sproul, *He Taught Them as One Who Had Authority Mark*, P 99
5. “There is nothing here inconsistent with the fact that the power residing in, and issuing from, Jesus, is the personal power of the personal God. Though Jesus does not himself make a decision in this case, nevertheless God does. God controls his own power. He knows about the woman and wills to honor her faith in the efficacy of his power active in Jesus, even though her faith is no doubt very imperfect...The cure does not happen automatically, but by God's free and personal decision.” Garland
6. See T. J. Geddert, “Peace,” in *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*, eds. Joel B. Green, Scot McKnight, and I. Howard Marshall (Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 1992), 604; P. B. Yoder, *Shalom: The Bible's Word for Salvation, Justice and Peace* (Newton, Kans.: Faith and Life, 1982).
7. 4. R.C. Sproul, *He Taught Them as One Who Had Authority Mark*, P 102
8. David E. Garland, *The NIV Application Commentary*, Mark P 225
9. As Tolbert (*Sowing*, 169) puts it well, “One does not have faith *because* one was healed; one has faith *so that* one can be healed. The miracles in Mark are not intended as signs to induce belief; they are, instead, the visible tangible fruits of faith.”