

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Living out the gospel with
one another in our homes

Date: 14 July 24

Text: Mark 5:21-43

Message/Questions: John Brewer

The nested stories in Mark 5:21-43 continue the underlying theme of Jesus intervening in the uncleanness of the world. In last week's message on Mark 5, the man had an unclean spirit which Jesus cast into unclean animals, pigs. Here, we have a little girl who is unclean because she is dead, and a woman who is unclean because of her medical condition. In both cases, Jesus takes on the uncleanness of these women to heal them, to make them clean. For us, Jesus took on the ultimate uncleanness, our sin, to make us clean and righteous before a holy God.

1. Have you ever had a time in your life, that you are willing to share, when you felt desperate? I made the connotation that a serious medical condition that causes one to be an outcast, the coming death of a child, or even being dead is the level of desperation we should feel as sinners before a holy God. Is that true? Read Hebrews 10:31, Revelation 3:15-17, and Romans 6:23. (Consider 1 Chronicles 21)
2. In our stories here, we see physical signs of dramatic submission to Jesus. In both cases (Jairus and the woman) they fall down before Jesus. Why is there such dramatic submission? Can you think of any other biblical cases of such dramatic submission? What does this suggest about how we should submit to Jesus' authority? How well do we practice that?
3. Why would Jesus not want people to know about him healing the girl at the time? Read Mark 1:40-45 and John 6:14-15.
4. In both of these stories, Jesus takes on uncleanness to heal these women. As Gentiles under the new covenant, we rejoice that ceremonial cleanness is not a daily consideration for us. If that is true, how does this relate to us? What is our uncleanness and what is the solution? Read Isaiah 64:6, Ephesians 2:1-2, and 2 Corinthians 5:21.