

Mark 5:21-43

As we begin this week I want to just point out that we are in the midst of a series of narratives in the life of Jesus that are displaying His great authority.

We began to look at this last week when Jesus told the disciples that they were going to get into the boat and cross to the other side of the Sea of Galilee...As they travelled a storm suddenly came upon the disciples and if you remember **they were losing it**, They were afraid of losing their lives and you can imagine they were trying to just keep the boat afloat and all the while Jesus was riding along with them asleep in the stern of the boat.

The disciples came to Jesus and woke Him asking if He cared about them or not and the Lord then stood and rebuked the storm showing His authority over nature.

When they came to the other side we saw that there was a man who was there who was possessed by multiple demons and this man came and worshipped the Lord and by the time the narrative ended this man who could not be tamed and was naked in the tombs was found clothed and in his right mind.

Now this week as we continue to study the life of Jesus we are going to see the Lord demonstrate His authority over sickness that has no medical cure and then we'll see the authority of Jesus over our greatest foe in life which is death as the Lord will raise a little girl from the dead.

You might say that Jesus in these narratives we will complete today provides hope when there is no hope and we see that in the storm, the

possession of an individual, the sickness of a woman and the death of a little girl.

One final detail here and we'll kind of roll into our text we are looking at but remember what happened with Jesus when He was in the country of the Gadarenes. The demon possessed man was set free, the demons rushed into the herds of pigs that were nearby, the pigs would have none of it committing sui-cide and then the people had come out to Jesus and you would think they would rejoice that Jesus had helped this man but instead they simply asked Him to leave...and Jesus is a perfect gentleman, He won't force Himself upon those that don't want Him around and so He leaves the region.

And that brings us to verse 21 which says this ²¹ **Now when Jesus had crossed over again by boat to the other side, a great multitude gathered to Him; and He was by the sea.** So having crossed the lake through a great storm and then really just ministering to one individual Jesus and the disciples returned where they had come from which was the area that is known as Capernaum.

So Jesus is back in the place that people know Him and just notice that once again there is a multitude that has gathered around Him...Essentially Jesus went from a place of rejection to a place of great acceptance.

Look at verses 22-23 which say ²² **And behold, one of the rulers of the synagogue came, Jairus by name. And when he saw Him, he fell at His feet** ²³ **and begged Him earnestly, saying, "My little daughter lies at the point of death. Come and lay Your hands on her, that she may be healed, and she will live."**

Here we are introduced to a man by the name of Jairus and we are told here that he was a ruler of the synagogue. This was a man that was well respected in the community and he surely had a good standing with the religious leaders in Jerusalem. Being a ruler of the synagogue meant it was your responsibility to maintain the order of the services that would take place. It would have been this man's job to make sure that everything was properly prepared, that the doors were opened and closed at the proper times, that things were clean and the proper scrolls were ready for those teaching.

We might remember that at this point in the narrative the religious community had pretty well come to the conclusion that Jesus was up to no good. They had watched the life and ministry of Jesus and on several points they had disagreed with Him.

For example we might remember when the disciples were out in the grainfields enjoying a snack on the Sabbath and the Pharisees had showed up and pointed out they were breaking the rules.

Or what about the time that they were frustrated that John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting regularly while Jesus' disciples were enjoying food regularly.

Jesus had also healed a man with a withered hand on the Sabbath which was breaking the Sabbath rules.

At one point the religious leaders even started to try and persuade the people to think of Jesus as being one with the kingdom of Satan as they spoke against Jesus saying He did the things He did by the power of Satan rather than the power of God.

We even saw that the Pharisees began to plot the death of Jesus.

All that to say that this man Jairus who was one with the religious community suddenly breaks away and the same account that is found in Matthew 9:18 we are told that when this man came he came worshipping Jesus.

I believe that this man could see something different about Jesus, that there was a power and an authority to Him for remember when Jesus taught the people marveled as He taught differently than anyone else did...Probably Jairus had seen firsthand the difference that Jesus could make in a life.

I would say as we look at this that God has a way of getting the attention of humanity. I believe the Lord loves us so much that He will allow things to happen to us and around us to bring us to Himself and for this man Jairus God allowed his little girl to become very sick.

Perhaps you and I that are parents can understand what this man was feeling as he went through this. I am very fortunate in that my daughter's have both been for the most part very healthy but when they do get sick and start to run a fever you do get a little antsy about it and just knowing how much I care for my girls I can relate in part to what this father is feeling and going through.

It was at this point that Jairus a highly religious man came to the end of himself. His religion fails at this point and He begins to seek for answers in the man named Jesus. We might even understand that for this man Jairus to make a step of faith towards asking Jesus to work in his life meant his whole life's work was really in jeopardy.

If the religious leaders from Jerusalem began to hear that this was a man that was seeking the intervention and ministry of Jesus rather

than rejecting Him...it would probably mean a termination of employment...a loss of status.

And yet for this man his little daughter was of far greater importance. We learn over in Luke 8:42 that this little girl was actually his only child. You can imagine the pain of this father to know his little girl is getting worse by the minute and then to hear that Jesus who had left for a time was now suddenly back...I can picture this man suddenly having just a little hope and suddenly the prestige and the status of his life doesn't matter anymore as he comes and falls before the Lord imploring Him for help.

We see this man begging the Lord that He would come with Him and lay His hands on her and that then she would be healed and so he is really asking the Lord to spare his little girl's life. Jairus knew if the Lord got involved that his little daughter would surely be healed.

Look at verse 24 which says ²⁴**So Jesus went with him, and a great multitude followed Him and thronged Him.**

You can imagine Jesus seeing the tears in this man's eyes, seeing a man that was probably against him now seeking His help and the Lord I believe was moved with compassion and began to go with Him.

We are told here that there was a great multitude that is around Jesus and they are thronging Him and that word just means that Jesus was being pressed upon all around and so you can imagine there is this great crowd of people around Jesus they are bumping into Him, they are pushing each other as they try to get near to Him.

And then look at what happens along the way if you look at verses 25-26 which say ²⁵**Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve**

years,²⁶ and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse. So here this crowd is and Jesus is working his way over to the house of Jairus **to hopefully in the mind of Jairus heal his little girl and along the way suddenly we have this woman that enters the scene and we are told here that she has a major physical problem in that she has had a flow of blood for 12 years.**

You can imagine that one day her period began and it was probably just another normal period for this woman **but now she has had this issue of blood for 12 years. I know this would have been uncomfortable and she probably felt ill and** her iron levels were probably depleted...**but what was probably worse for her was that in the Word of God we are** told the following over in Leviticus 15:25-27 which says the following ²⁵ **'If a woman has a discharge of blood for many days, other than at the time of her customary impurity, or if it runs beyond her usual time of impurity, all the days of her unclean discharge shall be as the days of her customary impurity. She shall be unclean.'** ²⁶ **Every bed on which she lies all the days of her discharge shall be to her as the bed of her impurity; and whatever she sits on shall be unclean, as the uncleanness of her impurity.** ²⁷ **Whoever touches those things shall be unclean; he shall wash his clothes and bathe in water, and be unclean until evening.**

The law declared that the 7 days a woman was on her period she was unclean **and we shouldn't think of it as she is banished or taken out of society but instead she was really given the time that she needed to rest and recover. She would not have had to partake of the normal**

required activities like cooking and carrying water and she wouldn't have to leave the house to worship or anything like that.

The problem for this woman was that when your issue of blood carried on beyond normal this stop in activity would continue. And so this woman was unable to participate in society like everyone else was. She probably lived a life of isolation, she couldn't worship the Lord as she probably wanted to, her family would need to stay away and so forth.

So this was a very difficult situation for her and you can imagine that if you had a medical problem that you just like me would naturally head to the doctor's office to get some help. Doctors have been around for better or worse just about as long as humans have been on the planet. Some doctors of course are better than others...Today we have the benefits of modern medicine. I suppose we would all say thank you Lord for the most part but we also understand that there is a certain portion of the medical industry that is really just there to make a buck.

You can imagine that this woman had seen every doctor in the city at this point as we are told she had spent all she had and had actually suffered a great deal at the hands of the doctors. It's a sad thing in life when a medical problem can really bring you to the point of financial ruin but that's where this woman found herself.

I wonder how many procedures this woman had undergone and how many home remedies she had taken and how many different kinds of doctors she had seen and if you have ever had a medical issue like this where the doctors can't seem to come up with answers then you

know there is a certain desperation that comes into play as you are simply looking for something or anything to help you get better.

You can do some research on this but the Talmud a collection of writings done by the rabbis actually lays out all the different remedies that could be done to heal or bring about a cleansing of a woman.

You can imagine on top of this that there were home remedies that were suggested to her and the advice of her friends and just so we have in mind it was commonly believed that if you had a bleeding issue like this that it indicated that you were a sinner of some sort and this was none other than the judgment of God.

So here we have this woman that is suffering greatly and as each remedy was given to her what was it that happened but that she only grew worse it says...and then look at what happens in verses 27-28 which say ²⁷**When she heard about Jesus, she came behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment.** ²⁸**For she said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well."**

We might wonder how it was that she heard about Jesus. Had she been in her house and seen the people crowding around the Lord as He walked through town, had she heard the stories of the healing abilities of Jesus as the paralytic was healed? Had she heard of Peter's mother-in-law and how the Lord touched her? I think there is no doubt that the whole region was talking about the great and miraculous works of the man named Jesus.

Notice that in her mind, in her spirit we might say she was convinced that if only she could touch the clothing of Jesus she would be healed. More than likely this would have been the hem or the bottom portion

of the garment of Jesus and I kind of get the idea that this woman was probably only just barely able to touch the Lord. Remember there were crowds that were almost mobbing Him as they tried to get near to Him.

We might also make note that this woman had a point of contact in her faith...It was almost like a release of her faith as she knew that in touching the Lord she would be able to step into His healing power.

It is a mystery how the Lord heals and works in people's lives. We might remember later on in the book of Acts that we are told that people were healed when just the shadow of Peter or the handkerchief of Paul touched them. Over in the book of James I believe there is a release of faith that is offered over in James 5:14-15 which say ¹⁴**Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.** ¹⁵**And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.**

Surely for you and I there is a step of faith that is taken as we seek the healing of the Lord in our lives. I do believe we should have a faith like this woman that says I just need to get to Jesus and perhaps today you are here or you are watching online and you are saying "I have a similar situation. The doctors can't help, they don't know what to do, I don't have any answers, I have suffered much at their hands" If that's you today I just encourage you to reach out to Jesus, to call out to Him, to reach out to Him and really seek that healing that can only come from Him.

When it comes to healing it's a hard thing to work through because we know that Jesus can and does heal those that call out to Him...and yet we also understand that the ways of the Lord go beyond our understanding, that there is much to be learned in the trials of life, that sickness does at times take place.

I would also mention that we here at Calvary Chapel do believe that Jesus is still in the healing business and surely if you have a sickness in your life I want you to know that we are more than willing to stand in faith with you just asking the Lord for that gift of healing and we'll offer that opportunity for prayer when we close this evening.

One more quick comment and we'll move on...we should just understand that this woman reaching out and touching another was considered wrong. She was unclean and if an unclean person touched a clean person what would happen? They would pass that uncleanness on to others...Jesus here we will see demonstrates something that only He can do...Jesus can take the unclean and as that unclean person comes into contact with Jesus the holiness of Jesus actually overcomes the uncleanness...Only Jesus can truly do that in the soul of a man or woman. Certainly Jesus can communicate His cleanness to a person that is unclean no matter how unclean that person might be.

So the woman probably fought to get close to Jesus and she is desperate in her life and she is out of answers and then look at what happens in verses 29-31 which say ²⁹ **Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction.** ³⁰ **And Jesus, immediately knowing in**

Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, “Who touched My clothes?”

³¹ But His disciples said to Him, “You see the multitude thronging You, and You say, ‘Who touched Me?’ ”

Somehow, some way this woman knew that the moment she touched Jesus that she had been healed of her affliction. I'm not sure what that feeling might be but I do think that when Jesus shows up that sometimes you just know that you know that He has intervened.

I wonder was this woman surprised by what she found when she touched the Lord...Was she ashamed that she had touched Him because she was an unclean woman? I think maybe she was and I think we can see as this unfolds that the Lord didn't want to leave her in that place of being ashamed.

Notice though that with all the people touching Jesus and pressing against Him that there was only one at this time that received something from the Lord. It was this woman and when she touched Jesus not only did she know she was healed but Jesus knew someone had been healed as well.

And the Lord was not content to be quiet about it as He publicly asks who it was that had touched Him...the disciples in response simply say Lord many have touched you...what do you mean by asking this.

Verses 32-34 say ³² And He looked around to see her who had done this thing. ³³ But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came 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 affliction.”

Notice that we are told here that Jesus looked to see her who had done this thing...I believe Jesus knew who it was that touched Him and I believe as He asks this it was not for His benefit but that He might minister to this woman and that she in turn might be able to testify to the world around her of what Jesus had done.

You can imagine the crowd was tense as Jesus demands to know who touched Him...and I wonder if the woman had a fear within her heart knowing that she an unclean woman had touched the Lord...and I wonder if she was ashamed to have done what she did.

Notice that this woman as she went through this did come and confess what she had done and notice she was full of fear and she was trembling as she came to Jesus.

I believe personally that had this woman left the presence of Jesus she may have always thought in her mind that she had done something wrong...and Jesus we can see wanted her to know that her faith had made her well and that she was healed. Notice it was not her actions that healed her but the faith she had that healed her. The actions came after the faith almost like a conduit to reach Jesus.

We should remember that the Bible says in Hebrews 11:6 the following when it says ⁶**But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.** This woman had faith that Jesus could do something about her situation and then she came and touched Him...So it is for us...When we come to Jesus, when we reach out to Him for His work in our hearts and lives we are reaching out believing that He is who He said that He is...and He does not disappoint.

The Lord really in doing this with her, in saying these things is releasing her from the bondage of fear and shame and you can imagine as she goes that she did so with great joy.

I suppose the second thing I would like to point out here is that as Jesus really commanded her to say what had happened she then publicly confessed to everyone there all the things she had been through and how the doctor's couldn't help and how she had spent all she had but when she came to Jesus she found the wholeness she so desperately desired.

So too you and I when we come to Jesus and He does such a great work in us can testify of His marvelous works. I'm so thankful for the testimonies that ALL of us have. That each of us can speak to the greatness of Jesus at work in our lives, that ALL of us can say the moment that we reached out in faith that the Lord did a great work in our hearts.

Imagine being in the crowd and hearing this woman speak of all she had been through and then having her say that Jesus healed her.

You might also underline here the word "daughter" and just make note this is the only time Jesus uses this word towards someone He is ministering too as he speaks comfort and peace to this woman letting her know that she has been made well.

Our focus has been on this woman the last several verses but remember where we began with a man that had a daughter that was sick and I think Jairus is probably just about to lose it with all the distractions that have come along and how desperately his daughter needs the Lord and then look at what happens in verse 35 which says

³⁵ While He was still speaking, some came from the ruler of the synagogue's house who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?"

Can you imagine the brokenness that probably came upon Jairus to hear this news? **It's too late why bother Jesus anymore.** Nothing can be done, the outcome is set in stone so to say.

Then Jesus gets word of what has been said if you look at verse 36 **which says** **³⁶ As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not be afraid; only believe."** Jesus simply tells this man to believe and not be afraid. How hard that is when circumstances seem so strongly against what we would trust Jesus for in life. I wonder what Jairus thought at this point.

The world would probably say forget it, its over, there is nothing to be done and yet Jesus confidently says to you and I and even to Jairus that we need only believe. Jesus surely does offer hope in the most difficult of situations.

I believe that Proverbs 3:5-6 would apply well to what this man faced when it says **Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.** There are times in life where all we can do is fall back on what Jesus has said.

Look at verses 37-39 which say **³⁷ And He permitted no one to follow Him except Peter, James, and John the brother of James. ³⁸ Then He came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and saw a tumult and those who wept and wailed loudly. ³⁹ When He came in,**

He said to them, “Why make this commotion and weep? The child is not dead, but sleeping.”

It is interesting that these three men Peter, James and John were seen with Jesus when others were not allowed. They were with Jesus on the mount of Transfiguration when Jesus was transformed into glory and they were invited to go just a little further with Jesus in the garden before His arrest...I'm not sure exactly why these men were always asked to be closer than the others...but I do know that when I was in school that teachers would often move me closer to the front of the room so they could keep an eye on me and keep me in line. Perhaps these men needed extra accountability and deeper experiences to keep them on the straight and narrow...

As they came to the house we are told there were mourners who were present and it was actually a common practice to actually hire professionals to come and mourn when someone had died. We should keep in mind that when someone died that burial was a quick process unlike what we have today. Often times it was the same day that someone was placed in the tomb. So death was quick and a very emotional scene.

We then see that when Jesus came in He simply asked what all the hu-bub was about as she was not dead but simply sleeping.

Verse 40 says ⁴⁰**And they ridiculed Him. But when He had put them all outside, He took the father and the mother of the child, and those who were with Him, and entered where the child was lying.** Notice the professional mourners quickly went from wailing to ridiculing after Jesus declares her to be asleep. Surely the doctors

had been there to make sure she was dead and the mourners knew what a dead body looked like.

Jesus then put them all out except for Jairus and the mother of this child and the disciples and then they entered into the room. Keep in mind it was the first time Jairus had been in that room to see his little precious girl after she had died. I can't imagine the emotion of the moment.

And then look at verses 41-43 which say ⁴¹Then He took the child by the hand, and said to her, "Talitha, cumi," which is translated, "Little girl, I say to you, arise." ⁴²Immediately the girl arose and walked, for she was twelve years of age. And they were overcome with great amazement. ⁴³But He commanded them strictly that no one should know it, and said that something should be given her to eat.

_Jesus speaks in the Aramaic language here probably the language Jairus and his family were most familiar with and he simply says "Little girl I say to you arise"...and sure enough this girl that was dead, rises up and can you imagine the look on the faces of the mother and father?

This is not the only time that Jesus rose someone from the dead. He also rose Lazarus who is the most well known and if you remember as the New King James version puts so well the people when Jesus said to remove the rock from the tomb said "BY NOW HE STINKETH." It had been many days for Lazarus but when the Lord told Him to come forth He certainly did.

And then there was a widow in the city of Nain who had a son that Jesus rose from the dead as well.

I am reminded that Jesus does have authority over sickness and that He does have authority over death.

For those of us that have accepted Jesus we too have been resurrected from a dead spiritual life to an abundant life that is only found in Jesus. We have been resurrected spiritually as we simply come to Jesus in faith. What glorious news that those who trust in Him have been taken from the kingdom of Satan and planted into the glorious kingdom of Jesus. Ephesians 2:1 simply says **And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,** Have you experienced that in your life? Have you experienced the power of Jesus in you to transform you and give you a hope?

Jesus said this in John 11:25-26 where the Word says ²⁵ **Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. ²⁶ And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"** Do you have that confidence today that though you may die in this world you shall never see spiritual death if you are in Christ. The reality is that eternity awaits all of us and only those that have chosen to believe in Jesus and His finished work on the cross shall receive forgiveness. If you need to do that I sure hope you will today.

And so this little girl is raised up and given life. I am reminded that Jesus is never late is He? I am reminded that His plans and His timing are beyond our understanding.

As we think about this little girl and the woman from our narratives today I wanted to just compare the two for a minute.

This little girl was 12 years old when she went through this...and the woman we are told had suffered for 12 years.

Jairus himself was well known in the community while the woman of bleeding had been in isolation.

Jairus was a wealthy man when He came to Jesus on behalf of his daughter...the woman had nothing when she came to seek out the Lord.

Jairus sought Jesus out in a public setting and spoke out asking for His help...while this woman came to Jesus in the privacy of her own mind and heart.

The little girl was healed in private while the woman was healed in a very public demonstration.

I think we can draw from this that Jesus heals and ministers to people in a great variety of ways. We cannot put our Savior in a box nor can we expect that He will work the same way from one situation to the next. What we can bank on, what we can put our confidence in is the simple fact that He cares for all who might call upon Him.

Tonight as we close I wanted to just offer that Jesus can and does heal those that reach out to Him in faith. He obviously is not obligated to heal anyone, nor is it always His will but tonight I am willing to stand here and simply say that if you have need of a healing physically in your life that I would be willing to pray with you about it...If you wanted to come forward I would be happy to do so.

And if you are here tonight and you need to cry out to Jesus because you are at the end of yourself and you don't know where to turn or if you just know in your heart you need to receive Jesus Christ in your life I would just encourage you to come forward as I would love to pray with you.

Let's pray and we'll worship in closing.

Mark 5:21-43 “No Problem Too Big”

Cross References

Verses 25-26

Leviticus 15:25-27

Verses 27-28

James 5:14-15

Verses 32-34

Hebrews 11:6

Verse 36

Proverbs 3:5-6

Verses 41-43

Ephesians 2:1

John 11:25-26