

# MARK — Jesus, Compassionate Healer

Pastor Perry Burkholder

## Mark 5:21 - 43

When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. He pleaded earnestly with him, “My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.” So Jesus went with him.

A large crowd followed and pressed around him. And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, because she thought, “If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.” Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched my clothes?”

“You see the people crowding against you,” his disciples answered, “and yet you can ask, ‘Who touched me?’ ”

But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.”

While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. “Your daughter is dead,” they said. “Why bother the teacher anymore?”

Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, “Don’t be afraid; just believe.”

He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. He went in and said to them, “Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep.” But they laughed at him.

After he put them all out, he took the child’s father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, “*Talitha koum!*” (which means “Little girl, I say to you, get up!”). Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.

*The New International Version* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Mk 5:21–43.

## The Trap of Perfection & Performance

When God saved you, did he give you the Holy Spirit because you did everything right that God expected of you, or perfectly obey him,

...OR:

Did He give you the Holy Spirit because you simply believed the message of the Gospel?

Think about it.

As Perry was preparing for this message, he woke up one morning and heard these words from Paul's letter to the Galatians. For this message, these words are for each of you today as you consider the text we are about to listen to.



Our concern as we look at the healing passages in Mark — is that perhaps some of us may have fallen into the same trap as The Galatian church had done.

**The trap of perfection & performance:** That God saves, or answers prayer and works miracles because you do everything right. Works of the law. If you perform or obey perfectly, God rewards you by answering prayer.

Another way to say it:

Is that God is not going to answer you unless you are good enough and perfect enough or have enough faith.

To which Paul answer, “Are you so foolish? After beginning by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh?”

This is foolishness and yet we fall into ourselves. Over and over again.

“So again I ask, does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you by the works of the law, or by believing what you heard?”

# Restoring Childlike Faith

Last week, we saw a Shift for the disciples- from receiving and observing ministry to joining and participating in ministry as Jesus lead them through a storm to encounter a demoniac person and deliver him from demons and back to his family and community.

No we see two desperate requests for healing.

## Two Patterns Before Healing

1. **Radical Humility:** First, Mark tell us Jairus comes [just] like the demoniac man in the story from last week. Just as He fell at his feet and begged Jesus, now Jairus falls at Jesus feet and implores Jesus earnestly to come lay his hands on his daughter, so that she may be healed.

My friends, this is worship...bowing down to Jesus. Recognition of who Jesus is.

2. **And then notice Jairus' unusual confidence.**

"Come lay your hands on her so that she may be healed. In other words, he is confident that if Jesus lays hands on her...she will get well.

This is a solid trust and faith in Jesus' power and authority.

Not in himself or his own faith or ability or performance to earn God's favor.

Jesus grants the request and decides to go with him.

## Along The Way to Jairus' Daughter...

This woman had suffered internal bleeding for a long time. She pursued medical help, which is a good and right thing and is not opposed to faith.



Some people become Christians, and develop this weird view that medicine and faith are at odds with each other. To have faith is to not pursue medicine. Nonsense.

As Christians, we should pursue medical help as far as we can for our ailments and illnesses. For the very reason that it is God himself who has given men and women the

education to understand how God has made the world and how the body works, and how to use God's resources for the healing of the body.

Medicine is not opposed to faith — get all you can.

However, medical help can only go so far. Her doctors and remedy's didn't cure her. Sometimes medical help doesn't work as in this case. She was beyond the help of medicine.

To add insult to injury — I believe it is fair to say that she also suffered from the social anxiety of being considered unclean and shunned by people in society since contact was considered ceremoniously and religiously unclean.

So for her to do what she does next is a major social risk.

## Pattern Repeat

**Again like Jairus- Notice the Pattern..**

- **Radical humility** to overcome the fear that she was breaking the law: for it was not allowed for unclean people to touch clean people, and she had been unclean for twelve years.
- **Unusual confidence-** This woman had heard enough to give her real confidence in Jesus' power. Confidence isn't in herself or her faith, but in the person of Jesus and his power is real and can be trusted. That if she just touches him...she will be made well.

**And instead of her making Jesus unclean, He makes her clean.**

## Perry's Healing

"In 2006, I found myself hospitalized for 9 days with internal bleeding. I had suffered for a couple of weeks before that with debilitating intestinal pain, bleeding, where I couldn't walk and was crawling to the bathroom.

They took me to the ER. Diagnosis: Auto-immune disease. Body was attacking my own intestines; ulcerative colitis.

The doctors told me, you will be on meds the rest of your life and you will not be able to eat what you want, stay near the restroom.

In that bed I cried out to God; I heard God's whisper, his thoughts:

“Don’t be afraid. You will not have this the rest of your life. You are going to be healed. Don’t accept it.”

My bleeding stopped, I was released from hospital, and was on meds for the next 1-2 years...

I determined to do everything in my power, to deal with the internal unhealthiness of my soul, lifestyle, etc., that contributed to this breakdown and I slowly came off of them. I was healed and never went back on the meds.

I share this because this story inspired me and gave me faith for my disease; I can say God touched me and healed me.

I believe this story is here for those who battle a debilitating illness or those who have loved ones who do- to not lose hope, give up, or quit pressing into Jesus and when you grow weary and tired — to get your friends to carry you to Jesus in prayer

## **Archana’s Healing**

In 2012, Perry travelled to Nepal with a group of men to do a mini-documentary to raise awareness and funds to build a permanent safe home in Nepal to rescue women and children from human trafficking.

Perry was led to preach on healing and preached on this exact passage in church on Saturday, and we the team prayed for them and there was healing! Then on Sunday, as we were getting ready for the day, we received a call that one of the women in the safe home had died. One of the Americans on the team did CPR to resuscitate her and was successful, but was in a coma.

No one could wake her and she was taken to the hospital so we visited her there. On the way, Perry heard that he should pray over her these words from Mark 5, “little girl, it’s time to get up.”

And so he did, and as soon as he did, her eyes shot open, began to smile, and sat up.



Before: Sunday 9AM Sep 2, 2021



After: Sunday 7PM Sep 2, 2021

## But Why Isn't Everyone Healed?

The answer is we don't know. Jesus passed by many sick people on the way to heal Jairus' daughter and we only know of him healing the woman in this incident. Perhaps there were others he healed, and we aren't told. But for sure, he didn't heal them all.

Perry can tell you the story of Jesus healing himself and others, but he can also tell you that I am 0 for 2 on raising the dead.

- **Danielle's cousin.** 23 yrs old, had a wife and 2 kids. He had a heart attack and died in his front yard. Phone call. Drove to hospital within 2 hours. Whole time I prayed in other languages, and faith rose in my heart, and I was convinced that he would come to life, if I could just get there soon enough.

At the morgue - I sent everyone out. I Prayed for 1 hour. Then in quiet, I heard "No. son, I am not going to do it this time. But I am so proud of you that you would ask."

- **Marty — My sister lost her husband of 19 yrs.** 3 kids. I was in Scotland. I took the first plane home. I Stood over his body and prayed and there was silence. I knew this was final.

I have no answers for this. Other than God determines it; he heals some, and others he doesn't. Some live with long term illness and endure much and others are healed. All of it is a mystery and God is sovereign.

**But I do know this:** Jesus is the compassionate healer who has authority over sickness and death. There is a humility and confidence that comes from faith in Him. In who He is.

**I also know:** Jesus was starting something revolutionary. He was initiating the kingdom of God on earth. The beginning of God's recreation of humans and restoration of the world.

These healings were signs that he was the one, the Messiah, the Son of God, who was coming into the world to reverse death itself.

NT wright says so well...

Jesus was on his way to confront the very heart of evil. He will face death itself, which threatens God's whole beautiful creation and defeat it in a way as unexpected as these 2 healings.

That's exactly what he did.

He ended death so that death doesn't have to end you and me.



He made a way for eternal life, for us to be made new by the Holy Spirit and give us the promise of new heavens and new earth, and an unusual confidence in a resurrection for us all, with new bodies, on a new earth, which will never end.

That's what the cross secured for us.