



## Dusty Dads

June 16, 2024

*<sup>22</sup> Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet.*

*Mark 5:22 (read vv. 21-43)*

In his typical fashion, Mark leaves his readers with little room to catch their breath from one episode to another. In the latter portion of Mark 4, Jesus calms the sea then, in chapter 5 he encounters the Gerasene man with a Legion of demons. In our current section, Jesus and the disciples return to the other side of the lake and are met with a crowd awaiting him. As he apparently was teaching the crowd, Jairus, a well-respected leader of the area synagogue (likely Capernaum) falls at Jesus' feet, begging him to save the life of his 12-year-old daughter.

While on his way to Jairus' house, an unnamed woman who had been hemorrhaging for 12 years surreptitiously approaches Jesus. She had depleted her resources, going from doctor to doctor. Trembling, she approaches Jesus, hoping only to touch the hem of his garment. Knowing that she was considered unclean, and had felt the weight of that status for over a decade, she moves through the crowd until she is able to grab Jesus' outer garment. Immediately she was healed. She knew it. And Jesus knew it. After a brief conversation, Jesus said for her to go in peace—shalom, well-being in the community—because her faith had healed her.

By then, Jairus' daughter died. Thinking Jesus no longer needed to bother, Jairus attempted to dismiss him. Jesus pressed on and, as the story concludes, he raised Jairus' daughter from the dead. Astonishment was the overwhelming reaction. This "story-within-a-story" focuses the point of the entire narrative. Jesus has divine authority over both chronic illness and death. Additionally, genuine faith, not mere social respect, is what receives wholeness.

## Small Group Guide

June 16, 2024

What did you hear in this morning's message that stood out to you? What was interesting, important, or confusing?

How does Jairus' actions before Jesus impact you? What does it say about this man?

What is the overall purpose of the healing of the hemorrhaging woman? How does this story connect to the story of Jairus?

What does it mean the "power" went out from Jesus?

### Some Background

There is much more to this story than only healing and resurrection. Mark uses what scholars call literary "intercalation"—inserting a story within a story. In this instance, the hemorrhaging woman is the interpretive key to the framing story, and vice-versa. Jairus falls at Jesus' feet as a sign of social honor—something quite significant given Jairus social standing of high honor. In typical social etiquette, Jairus makes an intentional request and Jesus complies. However, the focus is on the woman who, due to her medical issue, would be considered unclean and, therefore, shamed by society. Her timid touch of Jesus' garment, her healing, and the pronouncement for her to "go in peace", restored her to her social standing. In these stories, Mark demonstrates that Jesus' kingdom is inclusive of both the affluent and the poor...by faith.

### Reflections

There are some interesting connections in these two stories told by Mark. First, Jairus and the unnamed woman are from different segments of society—he a respected, wealthy ruler; she an unclean woman whose resources had been completely depleted by the medical system. Second, the woman had been hemorrhaging for 12 yrs, the age of Jairus' daughter. Third, both the woman and the daughter were unclean—the woman's condition made her ceremonially unclean and the little girl's death made her and her home unclean. Finally, rather than being made unclean by touching the unclean, Jesus made the unclean clean by his touch. Nothing keeps Jesus from offering full salvation.