

WEEK # 12 Mark 5:21-43 The Kingdom of God is at Hand

CHRIST AND JAIRUS (vv. 21–24)
CHRIST AND THE WOMAN (vv. 25–34)
CHRIST AND THE LITTLE GIRL (vv. 35–43)

We must not mistakenly think Jairus had become a devotee of Jesus or that he was a man of great faith. The simple fact was, he was desperate. He had heard of Jesus' miracles (maybe had even seen some) and possibly had talked to some who had been healed. He was not sure about Jesus, but Jesus was his only chance.

Who are you praying for that is not sure about Jesus?

Was there a time in your life when you recognized "Jesus was (is) my only chance?"

Jairus was like so many of us in our coming to Christ... It was his need. It was his desperation and a glimmer of hope. Despair is commonly the prelude to grace.

Share a time when despair preluded grace?

An unknown woman with a hemorrhage... Without a word Jesus' power completely healed her in the anonymity of the jostling throng. The same power which he used to make the sea instantly lie flat and to restore the raving demoniac healed her long-standing illness.

Remember that saying; "Reach out and touch somebody" How might you be the touch that someone else needs? Who can you intentionally do an act of kindness for? Stop and ask God to put someone on your heart that is stuck "in the anonymity of the jostling throng."

Share who God has put on your heart

Her faith was uninformed, presumptuous, and superstitious, but it was *real*, and Christ honored her imperfect faith. **How has your faith changed over the years?**

'Don't be afraid; just believe'" (v. 36) We must not miss what is happening here. Jairus came to Jesus with an uninformed, wishful "belief" that Jesus could heal his daughter. That belief elevated through Jesus' exchange with the woman. But now Christ challenged Jairus not to believe him for a healing, but for a *resurrection*! **What does "just believe" look like to you.**

How might the disciples lives have been changed after witnessing these events? How can our lives change as a result of believing the truth found in this passage?

DIGGING DEEPER

[# 16 Separating the Crowd from the Kingdom - Chris Brown](#)

[Quick link to # 16](#)

We saw in the stories of the bleeding woman and Jarius' daughter that faith is more than intellectual belief or just reaching out to Jesus. Biblical faith takes Jesus at his word and does what he says to do. What do you learn about faith in action in James 2:14-26?

How does Ephesians 2:8-10 compare with what you read in James 2 regarding faith and works?

If you had to explain to someone the relationship between faith and works in your own words, what would you say?

Faith and belief are a big part of the two stories we looked at this weekend. Another story in the Bible that shows the importance of faith is found in Daniel 3:16-28. In this story, three of Daniel's friends were faced with the kind of situation that could easily have caused them to doubt God and his plan—they were told to either worship an idol or be thrown into a blazing furnace. What do you learn about faith from their experience?

Our faith ultimately rests on an understanding of who Jesus is and what he has done for us. The following passages all contain statements that Jesus made about himself. For each one, identify what he says about himself and ways his description could help build our faith in him.

John 6:35 New International Version (NIV)

35 Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

John 8:12 New International Version (NIV)

Dispute Over Jesus' Testimony

12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 10:14-15 New International Version (NIV)

14 "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep."

John 11:25-26 New International Version (NIV)

25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; 26 and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

John 14:6 New International Version (NIV)

6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."