

A Thousand Ways to Set You Free

July 1, 2018 | WONDERFUL MERCY CHURCH

Our Texts From the Lectionary

- Mark 5:21-43
- Psalm 130

Our Words Create Worlds

- Speak words of gratitude and this will color every landscape you see, no matter your circumstances
- Speak dark, despairing words and you'll find that's the kind of world you inhabit

The IVP Bible Background Commentary

This woman's sickness was reckoned as if she had a menstrual period all month long; it made her continually unclean under the law (Leviticus 15:25-28)—a social and religious problem on top of the physical one. The ailment probably started after puberty; given an average ancient life expectancy of about forty years and the “twelve years” that she had been ill, she may have spent half or all her adult life with this trouble.

Our Words Create Worlds

- She had plenty of excuses; she might have said:
 - “I’m not important enough to ask Jesus for help.”
 - “Nothing else has helped me; so why try again?”
 - “He’s busy with Jairus; I can’t bother Him now.”
- Instead she says to herself, “If only I could touch his clothes, I know I will be healed.”

Our Words Create Worlds

- Consider Jairus and his words to Jesus:
“My little daughter is at the point of death... Come and lay your hands on her and heal her and she will live!”
- He speaks. And his words, like those of the afflicted woman, change everything

Who Touched Me?



Jairus and the Afflicted Woman

- Jairus was a significant synagogue officer; the woman was an anonymous nobody
- Jairus was about to lose a daughter who had given him twelve years of joy; the woman was about to lose an affliction that had brought her twelve years of sorrow
- But they had this in common: their words caught the attention of the Maker of heaven and earth

Words Have Always Created Worlds

- Ten times in the creation account of Genesis 1 we read, “And God said...”
- **Genesis 2:1** NIV
“Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.”
- Genesis 1:28 reports that we are made in God’s image, so why should it surprise us that our words have creative power as well?

Jesus' Words are the Ultimate World-Makers

- He says to the woman: “Daughter, because you dared to believe, your faith has healed you. Go with peace in your heart, and be free from your suffering!”
- To Jairus he says, “Don’t yield to fear. All you need to do is to keep on believing.”

Jesus' Words are the Ultimate World-Makers

- To the townspeople and neighbors he says, “Don’t you know the girl is not dead but merely asleep?”
- To the little girl he says, “*Talitha koum*,” which means, “Little girl, wake up from the sleep of death.”

God's Words are the Ultimate World-Makers

- **Psalm 130:5** PASSION TRANSLATION

“... I wait upon you, expecting your breakthrough, for your word brings me hope.”

- **Psalm 130:7b** PASSION TRANSLATION

“... keep waiting on the Lord, for he is tenderhearted, kind, and forgiving. He has a thousand ways to set you free!”

Words Create Worlds

- Words create worlds, and this is a word of Lord in a season of turning toward something good, a prospering, a coming-out-of turning
- Here's what Lord would say to you: "I have a thousand ways to set you free!"

Words Create Worlds

- Speak the words God speaks over you and see the worlds they make for you to live in
- We may wonder at how such a thing is possible but it's a simple matter, really — our words create worlds because they are containers of faith

Syrian Church Father Aphrahat on Faith

“So let us draw near then, my beloved, to faith, since its powers are so many. For faith raised up [Enoch] to the heavens and conquered the deluge. Faith causes the barren to sprout forth. It delivers from the sword. It raises up from the pit. It enriches the poor. It releases the captives. It delivers the persecuted. It brings down the fire. It divides the sea.

Syrian Church Father Aphrahat on Faith

“It cleaves the rock, and gives to the thirsty water to drink. It satisfies the hungry. It raises the dead, and brings them up from Sheol. It stills the billows. It heals the sick. It conquers hosts. It overthrows walls. It stops the mouths of lions, and quenches the flame of fire. It humiliates the proud, and brings the humble to honor. All these mighty works are wrought by faith.”

[Demonstration 4.17–19, in *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture – Old Testament VIII: Psalms 51-150*.]

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