

Sermon #48

November 11, 2018

Mark 5:21-34

Good news: Jesus Heals

Jesus heals two people

²¹ Jesus crossed the lake again, and on the other side a large crowd gathered around him on the shore. ²² Jairus, one of the synagogue leaders, came forward. When he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet ²³ and pleaded with him, “My daughter is about to die. Please, come and place your hands on her so that she can be healed and live.” ²⁴ So Jesus went with him.

A swarm of people were following Jesus, crowding in on him. ²⁵ A woman was there who had been bleeding for twelve years. ²⁶ She had suffered a lot under the care of many doctors, and had spent everything she had without getting any better. In fact, she had gotten worse. ²⁷ Because she had heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his clothes. ²⁸ She was thinking, If I can just touch his clothes, I’ll be healed. ²⁹ Her bleeding stopped immediately, and she sensed in her body that her illness had been healed.

³⁰ At that very moment, Jesus recognized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and said, “Who touched my clothes?”

³¹ His disciples said to him, “Don’t you see the crowd pressing against you? Yet you ask, ‘Who touched me?’” ³² But Jesus looked around carefully to see who had done it.

³³ The woman, full of fear and trembling, came forward. Knowing what had happened to her, she fell down in front of Jesus and told him the whole truth. ³⁴ He responded, “Daughter, your faith has healed you; go in peace, healed from your disease.”

³⁵ While Jesus was still speaking with her, messengers came from the synagogue leader’s house, saying to Jairus, “Your daughter has died. Why bother the teacher any longer?”

³⁶ But Jesus overheard their report and said to the synagogue leader, “Don’t be afraid; just keep trusting.” ³⁷ He didn’t allow anyone to follow him except Peter, James, and John, James’ brother.

³⁸ They came to the synagogue leader’s house, and he saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. ³⁹ He went in and said to them, “What’s all this commotion and crying about? The child isn’t dead. She’s only sleeping.” ⁴⁰ They laughed at him, but he threw them all out.

Then, taking the child’s parents and his disciples with him, he went to the room where the child was. ⁴¹ Taking her hand, he said to her, “*Talitha koum*,” which means, “Young woman, get up.”

⁴² Suddenly the young woman got up and began to walk around. She was 12 years old. They were

shocked! ⁴³ He gave them strict orders that no one should know what had happened. Then he told them to give her something to eat.

One of the blessings I have during the week is mentoring teenagers at the middle school. I love these crazy young people. Their hormones are starting to kick in and they are trying to figure out who they are and how they fit in. Through it all, I can see their potential. I can see what they can be or how their life can be different. I see hope, I see a brighter future and better possibilities for these kids -- even when the silly and sometimes not very nice words come out of their mouths.

Somehow it does not bother me because I believe they can be the light for world if we love them and give them faith in Jesus and be there for them. I believe they hear – even when they pretend they do not. I have faith in them.

Last Tuesday they did not want to sit and talk about life and about how they can do better. They wanted to go and play outside. So I said if you will do well for the 15 minutes we can play for 10 minutes outside which they gladly did.

If you want something badly you will do amazing things to get it. We will endure just about anything and go through any number of hoops to obtain what we desire.

If you want a new truck, you might even pick up an extra job. If you want your team to win, you practice until you can drop to the ground. If you want to succeed you will do anything to get to the top.

I do not watch TV. However, I do know that you are glad this week is over. At last you have some relief from all the political commercials and phone calls. The candidates have been on the stump for months working 20 hours per day to get what they want – to be elected.

I wanted so desperately to pass my final math test in high school. I knew who needed to sit next to me. I planned ahead. I made a deal. I would even go on a date with that guy if he would just help me pass the test.

Today we encounter two very desperate people.

Jairus, the synagogue leader, falls at the feet of Jesus. Jairus had everything we consider important in life: prominence, position, prestige, privilege, prosperity and power. He even had religion. He had it all.

Now, none of it mattered. He falls at the feet of Jesus. His daughter is very sick. She is about to die. We will do almost anything for our children when they are sick. "My daughter is about to die. Please, come and place your hands on her so that she can be healed and live". Without any words Jesus went with him.

The good news is that when we come to Jesus he will and does travel with you.

Crowds were squeezing in and following him. There is a person in the crowd. There is a woman who was bleeding for 12 years – 4,380 days. She has non-stop bleeding for all these days. She was a walking fountain of blood. The woman's condition is more than physical. She is losing more than blood. She has lost her life. Her husband had to shun her. Society rejected her. If she had children, they could not go near her. There was a great fear of contamination because it made you unclean.

She also was not allowed near the temple or in the synagogue. So effectively, for 12 years, this woman was cut off from getting to God.

It is hard for us to comprehend the misery of that bleeding woman. We have nothing like that. Then, again, maybe we can understand. So many of us are drained of life. Do you ever feel like the bucket of your life has a hole in it? It leaks faster than you can fill it? No matter what you do, how hard you work, where you go, what you try, you just can't fill it up. Drained of life, we go through the motions. We're alive but not really living. We feel disconnected, isolated, and alone.

This woman "had suffered a lot under the care of many doctors, and had spent everything she had without getting any better. In fact, she had gotten worse". I feel her pain. She was left without anything. Every effort to get out of her situation only made it worse.

The 1st century doctors made prescriptions. The Talmud (which is the written record of Jewish oral traditions) tells us that there were 11 different "medical" treatments for an issue of blood. For example:

- "Take of the gum of Alexandria the weight of a small silver coin; of alum the same; of crocus the same. Let them be bruised together, and given in wine to the woman that has the issue of blood."
- "If this does not benefit take three pints of Persian onions; boil them in wine, and give her to drink, and say, 'Arise from thy flux.'"
- "If this does not cure her, set her in a place where two ways meet, and let her hold a cup of wine in her right hand, and let someone come behind and frighten her, and say, 'Arise from thy flux.'"

Additional “cures” included carrying the ashes of an ostrich egg in a linen bag in summer and in a cotton bag in winter

One scholar lists common remedies of that day to include eating grasshopper eggs, carrying around the tooth of a fox, or the fingernail of a person who has been hanged!

I know it sounds crazy to us but we will try many insane things to feel better, to find peace, to help ourselves. We will even around the tooth of fox or a good luck charm.

“In fact, she had gotten worse. Because she had heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his clothes”.



I wonder how she managed to get near Jesus. She was untouchable. The crowds were squeezing around Jesus. How could she get near without bumping into the others?

She touched Jesus. It did not make him unclean. Instead, she became clean.

She had heard about Jesus. That was not enough. She did not bother with the questions: “Why?” Why me? Why for so long? Why does nothing help? Why? Why?

She did not blame or make excuses. She had what she needed – faith. Then she acted on that faith.

We have heard what is written in the Scriptures, we have heard what we need to be and do to live. We have heard all this. We have heard about Jesus. Did hearing about him heal her? I believe that she would have wanted to meet Jesus, but she was unclean. She was not allowed near anyone. She was not allowed to touch anybody.

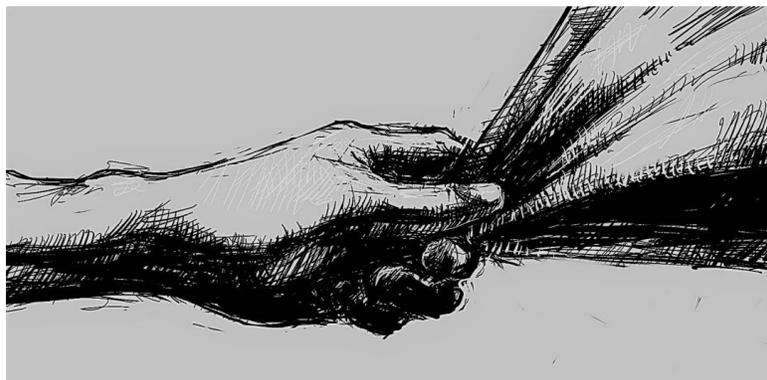
She was desperate. She broke the norms and rules. She wanted so much to be healed and had faith that only if she could reach and touch his clothes so she did. "Her bleeding stopped immediately, and she sensed in her body that her illness had been healed".

It could be very much the end of the story. She is healed, at least physically.

Let's not forget Jairus, the desperate father of the dying girl. He is probably jumping from one foot to another. Time is precious. Please no stops. We need to hurry.

Jesus has time for interruptions. How important was Jairus' daughter? Oh, very much. Jesus, without any questions, was going straight there. How important is this unnamed woman? As much as the daughter of Jairus.

What a gift of God to be able to be interrupted. What a gift of God being able to understand that, with all the important stuff we have scheduled, the unplanned people and unplanned conversations are from God's planning. Are we so busy with our schedules that we have no time for God's schedule?



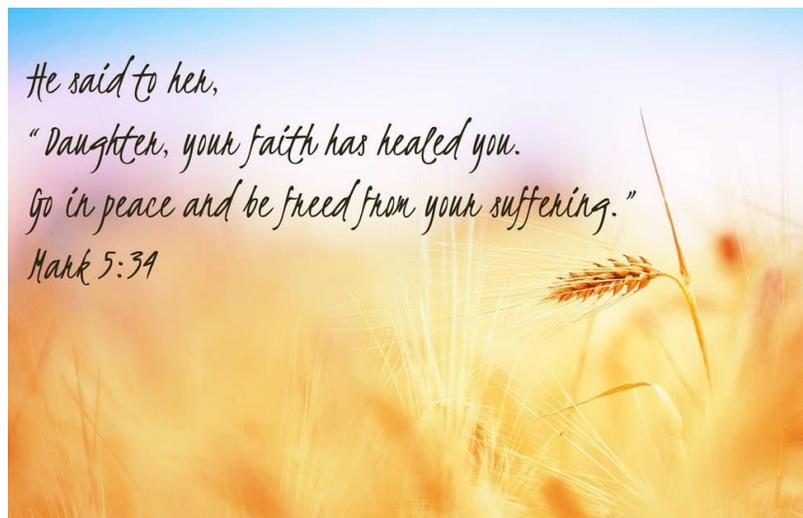
Jesus looked around. "Who touched my clothes?"

The “who” word in Greek is in the feminine gender! Did Jesus need to know who touched him or did she need to know Jesus? If faith helps you to go through life, it is wonderful. If prayer gives you strength, praise God. But Jesus wants more than to heal your body. Jesus wants to have an eye to eye meeting.

“The woman, full of fear and trembling, came forward. Knowing what had happened to her, she fell down in front of Jesus and told him the whole truth”. Now the woman is full of fear. She no longer can be secret. She no longer can hide in the crowd. She no longer can go unseen. Her secret plan worked, but she did not plan this.

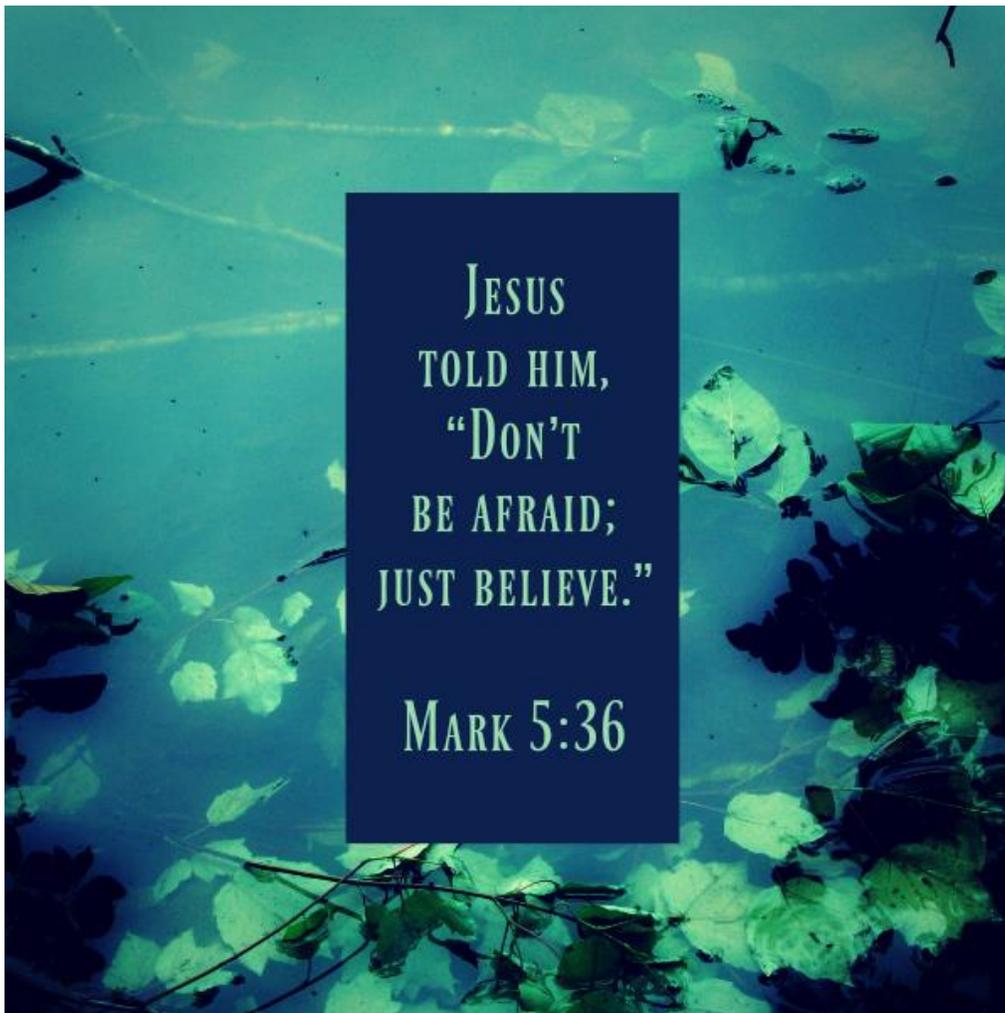
She told the truth. Am I able to tell all of the truth?
What will Jesus do?

He responded, “Daughter, your faith has healed you; go in peace, healed from your disease.”



She was already healed from her bleeding, but now she is healed from all the suffering and she has peace. Perhaps most importantly, now she is daughter. This is the relationship Jesus wants to have: Loving you like his daughter, his son.

Everything is beautiful except Jairus' daughter has died. We hear nothing from Jairus. He did not ask questions when he met Jesus. He did not ask questions now that she was dead. He did not blame Jesus for stopping on the way.



Jesus said: "Don't be afraid; just keep trusting." There are times when we believe strongly. We are able to trust. There are times when we pray, we seek, we follow and suddenly it becomes very hard to believe. Jairus' daughter is dead because Jesus was busy healing others. What is next?

Jesus says: "Don't be afraid; just keep trusting." Keep that faith. Keep that trust. Maybe God will not come in your timing but he will always be right on time.

Have faith

Reach out, tell all of the truth

Receive the healing and take peace from your relationship with God

Do not ask "Why?" Rather, see what Jesus will do where you are. Keep on trusting,
Keep on having faith.