

Message #16

Mark 5:21-43

One of the things that phony religious leaders use to try and fill their pockets with money is healing crusades. A healing crusade is a type of revival gathering in which a group of people get together to see some charismatic leader who comes to town and claims to be able to heal people. One of these crusades in California this year boasted of 148 total decisions for Christ and 39 notable healings on the platform. This crusade took place on a Friday and Saturday night and was comprised of 49 churches and 28 music groups. One poster for a “healing evangelist” promised that he could heal cancer, AIDS and blindness. The Advertising Standards Authority investigated the claim and found it to be misleading and they removed the advertising. The real bottom line behind these fraudulent healing crusades is money. In fact, one of the most famous of these faith healers went to Nigeria, and when the numbers did not turn out to be what he anticipated, he yelled at an audience that 4 million dollars was down the drain.

Now Jesus Christ was one who could literally and really heal people. He was God in Person and He had all power over everything. **In fact, we have already seen Jesus had power over storms; Jesus had power over Satan, and what we will see here is that Jesus had power over sickness and Jesus had ultimate power over death. He is God. He is the only One with this kind of power.**

He did not use miraculous power for money. He did it to establish who He was. In fact, in this text He does two incredible miracles, including raising a girl from the dead and He tells those who saw Him do it, don’t let anyone “know about this” (5:43).

Christ’s ministry was about preaching and teaching, not about performing as many miracles as He could perform. In fact, Jesus Christ did not heal every person who was sick, nor did He raise up every person who had died. **The miracles of Jesus Christ established that He is the God/Man/Messiah/Savior.** No religious leader has ever been able to duplicate what Jesus did in Israel. There is actually a secular historical document written by a historian named Josephus (A.D. 37-100) who said this: “Jesus...was a doer of wonderful works...Pilate had him condemned to the cross...he appeared alive again the third day” (*The Complete Works of Josephus*, Antiquities of the Jews, p. 379). These miracles were designed to show Israel that He was the Messiah and Savior who could give her the Kingdom. The miracles of Jesus Christ were His credentials that established He was who He claimed to be.

Verse 21 says, “when Jesus had crossed again in a boat to the other side,” He was met by “a large crowd.” He is now back “in Jewish territory.” He is in Galilee, but there are huge numbers of Jews waiting for Him. When Jesus got back to the other side of the sea, He discovered that there were huge numbers waiting there until He came back.

In fact, the crowd was so large that He stayed by the sea. This would enable Him to use the boat again as an escape. What happens here is amazing.

JESUS CHRIST PERFORMED TWO AMAZING MIRACLES TO DEMONSTRATE TO THAT THAT HE IS THE GOD/SAVIOR/MESSIAH/KING.

Now in this text of Scripture there are two amazing healing miracles that Christ performs concerning twelve-year-old matters:

HEALING MIRACLE #1 – The healing of Jairus’ deathly sick daughter. 5:22-24; 35-43

Now the story starts in **verse 22**. A synagogue official, actually the Greek word indicates this is a synagogue ruler, whose name is Jairus, goes to Jesus. A synagogue official was responsible to oversee matters pertaining to Jewish worship. We must assume that since Jesus is within walking distance of the home of Jairus that he is one of the Capernaum synagogue leaders. Jarius was a high-ranking Jewish official who had a very sick and dying daughter and there was nothing he himself could do about it.

Now there are some actions of Jairus that truly show he believes in Jesus Christ. In fact, these actions would be risky in front of other Jewish religious leaders. Keep in mind that Jairus is a synagogue leader, so he is really going against the grain of the religious status quo:

Action #1 - He came to Jesus. 5:22a

We know that two times in this context we learn the crowds were large (**5:21, 24**). So to even get near Jesus Christ was not easy. If you did get near Him, it was a very public moment, not a private moment. So what we have here is a Jewish religious leader turning to Jesus.

Let us remember that many of these Capernaum synagogue leaders were not supportive of Jesus Christ. He had done some things on the Sabbath Day and in their synagogue that really angered them. In fact, there are plots being formed to eliminate Jesus Christ because of things He did and said in the synagogue (i.e. 3:1, 6).

What Jairus does here as a synagogue leader shows he truly believes in Him. He knows Jesus is able to heal his daughter and he risks everything about his career and turns his back on the prejudices of his colleagues who are against Christ and he goes to Christ.

Action #2 - He fell down at Jesus’ feet. 5:22b

This is a sign of great honor and worship. In fact, this Greek verb “fell down” implies that Jairus is prostrate, paying homage to Jesus Christ (G. Abbott-Smith, *Greek Lexicon*, p. 361). In front of all who were there, this Jewish religious leader fell down before Jesus Christ. This Jewish religious leader was bowed down before the Lord.

Do not let the prejudices of those you know keep you from personally going to Jesus Christ. Do not let the beliefs of your friends and colleagues keep you from a relationship with Him.

You will never regret falling down before Jesus Christ. No one will ever regret falling down before Jesus Christ and asking Him to save them.

Action #3 - He asked Jesus to heal his daughter. **5:23a**

This is a very desperate father, his daughter was dying and there was not a doctor on earth who could come up with a treatment that could save her. This dad was about to lose his little girl. Notice that Jairus calls his daughter “my little daughter.” This was a young girl. We learn from **verse 42** that she was twelve-years-old.

Now when the text says he “implored” Jesus, it means he is exhorting, admonishing and beseeching Jesus to please go lay His hands on his little girl so she would get better and live. He truly believed that Jesus Christ was able to do this because He was who He claimed to be. This is an urgent and desperate appeal. By the way, this same word is used in **verse 17**, where Jesus was admonished to leave the region; here He is admonished by a Jewish leader to go to his home.

One of the most impacting preachers to ever pastor a church in California was Ray Stedman. He went home to be with the Lord in 1992. He loved Dr. Chafer and he was a close friend of J. Vernon McGee. In fact, he has produced on line some old tapes of lectures done by Dr. Chafer. Ray Stedman told the story of one time he and his wife were driving through Oregon with their little girl who had developed a fever. He said as he was driving he looked over at his daughter and she started to have convulsions. He said her eyes turned up and her body began to jerk. Her fever was bad. He said I knew my little girl was in trouble. He said it was about 6AM and he stopped his car, grabbed his daughter, went to a farmhouse and started banging on the door. He said a lady came to the door and he said- “My daughter is sick she is having convulsions, do you have a bathtub where we can put her in warm water?” The lady nodded she did and Ray said he ran to the bathroom and started running the water and his daughter turned out to be okay. He said he learned later that this family had the only bathtub for miles. But he said I can relate to Jairus. I understand the panic when you think your daughter is about to die (*The Weakness of the World*, Mark 5:21-6:6, p. 2).

Jairus is begging Jesus and **verse 24** says He went with Jairus and as He was going, a large crowd was following Him and pressing in on Him. The size of this crowd not only shows that Jesus was popular, but that his progress is impeded. It was not easy to get near Jesus Christ.

Now at this point, while Jesus is walking to Jairus’ home to heal his daughter, we come to an intercalation of another story about another sick woman:

HEALING MIRACLE #2 – The healing of the hemorrhaging woman. **5:25-34**

In this huge crowd somewhere was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years (**v. 25**). What this means is that this woman had some “flow of blood” for twelve years. She was suffering from some chronic bleeding disorder.

According to **verse 26**, she had been to many doctors and has spent all of the money she had on trying to find a cure, but she was getting worse. In other words, this woman was beyond any human medical help. It is interesting that Luke, who was a medical doctor, does not mention the fact that she spent all of her money on doctors. He just says no one could heal her (Luke 8:43). He may have been trying to protect the medical profession. But the fact is this woman had spent everything she had on doctors and could not be cured.

Now this condition was not only dangerous to her physically, but she was deemed unclean spiritually. According to the O.T. law, in Leviticus 15:19-31, she was unclean and not able to participate in religious services because of this flow of blood. She was an outcast. Kent Hughes said that this continual hemorrhage meant she was continually unclean and that she was unclean to any who came in contact with her. He said if she was married, she was probably divorced because of her uncleanness (*Mark*, p. 123). She was viewed as some outcast leper.

So here is what you have here with this poor woman:

- 1) She is suffering physically - she is bleeding.
- 2) She is suffering medically - no doctor can cure her.
- 3) She is suffering financially - she is out of money.
- 4) She is suffering spiritually - she is an outcast—no one wants to be near her.

However, according to **verses 27-28**, she had heard about Jesus and she believed in Him and she thought He is God and if I can just touch His garment, I will be healed.

The words “for she thought” (**v. 28**) meant she continually kept saying over and over again that if I can just touch His garment, she knew she would be healed. She was somewhat apprehensive and scared because she was so unclean; but her faith was such that she believed if I just reach out by faith and touch His garment, I will be healed.

She was not interested in being publicly noticed. She was not interested in being pointed out publicly; she secretly got near Jesus Christ just to touch His garment. According to **verse 27**, she came up behind him and just touched His garment, then probably backed away like a faceless nobody.

Verse 29 says as soon as she touched Jesus’ garment, “immediately” the flow of blood stopped and she was healed. If you reach out by faith and invite Him into your life, you will see Him do some immediate things. You are not a faceless nobody to Jesus Christ.

Now in **verse 30**, Jesus knew that saving power and healing power had gone out from Him and He turned to the huge crowd and said, “who touched My garments?” Now Jesus knew who it was who did this, because **verse 32** says He looked around straight at the woman.

But what Jesus is doing is something personal and theological. **Jesus wants this woman to come forward so she can bear witness to what He is capable of doing.**

For one thing, this would show that He is the one who would put an end to the law and make one unclean clean. He wants to publicly show that this woman who had been a total outcast was now clean.

According to **verse 31**, the disciples said do you see these crowds, what do you mean who touched you? These disciples still don't get it. These disciples don't have a clue as to what is happening here. In spite of all they have seen Jesus do, they still think they need to open their mouths.

Verse 32 says He was looking around to see the woman who had done this. He knew who she was and she knew who she was. And Jesus wanted all to see who she was. **Jesus Christ wanted all to see that He is God, who can graciously save any unclean person of any unclean thing.**

Now when Jesus asked her to identify herself, **verse 33** says the woman feared and trembled and she came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. Now this is a critical point. **To get into a right relationship with Jesus Christ, you must tell Him the truth. You must come to terms with the "whole truth" about yourself and your sin and you must come to terms with this personally with Jesus Christ.**

When the woman did that, in **verse 34** Jesus identified her as being in His family "daughter." This is probably the first time in twelve years when anyone has been nice to this outcast. Jesus elevates this woman to being His relative, His daughter. He said to her, it is your faith that has made you well. It is your faith in Jesus Christ that has healed you. In fact, the word for "heal" is the word saved (sozo). Your faith has saved you.

Now there is a big theological debate about whether or not Jesus is referring to just her physical healing or her spiritual salvation. It is clear that she believed more in Christ's ability to save than the disciples who had been out in a boat with Him. We think she was physically and spiritually saved.

When Jesus says at the end of **verse 34**, "be healed of your affliction," she has already been healed of her physical affliction because when she touched His garment she was "immediately" healed (**v. 29**). The word "affliction" refers to Divine chastisement (Smith, p. 280). So when Jesus says, "go in peace, you are healed," what He means is you are now in a right relationship with God forever because you came to Me by faith.

Don't miss this. It was not her touch that made her well; it was not her works that made her well, it was her faith. Jesus said, "your faith has saved you." This woman left Jesus physically and spiritually healed.

Now we may remember that all of this is taking place while Jesus is on His way to heal a daughter of Jairus.

So as Jesus was speaking, according to **verse 35** someone came to Jairus and said your daughter has died, why trouble the Teacher anymore? This is how Jesus is viewed by most people. He is viewed as some teacher. They don't view Him as the God/Savior/Messiah. He is simply some religious teacher.

Jesus, overhearing this said to Jairus, don't be afraid, only believe (**verse 36**). Remember this is a massive crowd and Jesus is listening to the discussion between Jairus and some people from his house. Jesus said to Jairus, "Do not be afraid any longer, only believe." Place your faith in Me and you have nothing to fear when you face death.

According to **verse 37**, Jesus only permitted Peter, James and John to go with Him any further. He only took these three with Him to Jairus' home. We are not sure why these three were singled out at this point; but they would serve as key eyewitnesses to what Jesus would do. They were privileged to see one of the great miracles of Jesus Christ. Since Mark is writing this, he obviously got his information from Peter, who was there to witness this.

According to **verse 38**, when Jesus got to the house, there was "noisy confusion." People were weeping and wailing and it was loud. When Jesus went into the house and saw this commotion, He questioned them. He said why the noise and weeping, the child is not dead, but sleeping (**v. 39**). Now if any other person on earth was to say that, certainly you should be skeptical; but if Jesus Christ says this, then this is an epoch moment. God is in your house and the keys of life and death are in His hands.

Had these people had the same kind of faith of the hemorrhaging woman, they would have rejoiced. But instead they began laughing at Him (**v. 40a**).

So Jesus put all of the scoffers and mockers out. Think lightly of Jesus Christ and you will miss out on powerful things. The force of the verb "put them out" means He forcefully cast them out. Jesus is God and they were laughing at Him and He was not about to associate with any of them. Think of this—on the other side of the sea they told Jesus to leave and on this side of the sea people are laughing at Him. Why did He put up with this? To save us.

Jesus took with Him Jairus, his wife and His own companions (Peter, James and John) and He went into the child's room (**v. 40**). According to **verse 41**, Jesus took the girl by the hand and he said to her "Talitha kourai," which translated means "Little girl, I say to you, get up." Talitha kourai is Aramaic. Mark translates the Aramaic into Greek.

As soon as Jesus said these words, the girl got up and began to walk. She was a twelve-year-old girl and she got up and started walking around and all were astonished (**v. 42**). I challenge any phony faith healer to try this. Go to a place where someone is dead and the people are crying and take the hand of the corpse and say, "Talitha kourai" and see what happens. Nothing will happen. Because Jesus is God and no other man on this earth is.

Now **verse 43** says that Jesus gave strict orders not to broadcast this. What a contrast to the faith healers, who put out flyers claiming they have done the miraculous. Now why did Jesus give strict orders not to tell this? One reason is because He was not going to go to every funeral and raise every dead person. That is not what He came for. He came to save sinners.

In fact, you must feel somewhat sorry for the poor twelve-year-old girl. We assume she was a believer because her father was. She had to come back to a sin-filled, sin-cursed world filled with disasters, disease and depravity and then she would have to die all over again. She had to have something to eat here just to gain her strength so she could die again. I am sure the parents were elated, but this is a real let down for the twelve-year-old girl who was enjoying the splendors of eternity.

All of us have had our loved ones die. They are with the Lord. They are enjoying the splendor of heaven. We really can't wish them back.

G. Campbell Morgan preached on this text and said he had a hard time preaching it because of what happened to his own daughter. He said his little daughter was to the point of dying and he called out to the Lord. Here is what he wrote: "I called for Him then, and He came, and surely said to our troubled hearts, "fear not, believe only." He did not say, "She shall be made whole." She was not made whole, on the earthly plane; she passed away into the life beyond. But He did say to her "Talitha kum," i.e. "Little lamb arise." But in her case that did not mean "Stay on the earth level," it meant that He needed her, and He took her to be with Himself. She has been with Him for all these 40 years, as we measure time here, and I have missed her every day. But His word "Believe only" has been the strength of all the passing years" (Cited from Ray Stedman, *Ibid.*, p. 6).

This world of ours is filled with all kinds of religious hucksters and con artists. This world of ours is filled with all kinds of denominations and devilish doctrines. There are so many religions "isms" that we cannot even count them all.

But here is the truth—the only one who can save you from your sins and the only one who can give life to those dead in sin is Jesus Christ. He is what you need and He is all you need. He is the God-Savior-Messiah-King and if you will invite Him into your life, then you, too, can go through this world and into eternity at peace with God.