

Mark 5:21 Now when Jesus had crossed over again by boat to the other side, a great multitude gathered to Him; and He was by the sea. **22** And behold, one of the rulers of the synagogue came, Jairus by name. And when he saw Him, he fell at His feet **23** and begged Him earnestly, saying, "My little daughter lies at the point of death. Come and lay Your hands on her, that she may be healed, and she will live." **24** So *Jesus* went with him, and a great multitude followed Him and thronged Him.

25 Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years, **26** and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse. **27** When she heard about Jesus, she came behind *Him* in the crowd and touched His garment. **28** For she said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well." **29** Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in *her* body that she was healed of the affliction. **30** And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched My clothes?" **31** But His disciples said to Him, "You see the multitude thronging You, and You say, Who touched Me?" " **32** And He looked around to see her who had done this thing. **33** But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. **34** And He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction."

We have a story in a story this morning. We will just move with the text and I suspect we will be at this for two weeks.

Now, last we knew Christ was leaving a bunch of people who were glad to see Him go. He had done a devastating work on their hog business and the overwhelming emotion of the place was fear. They were afraid of Christ and what He represented and what they feared He would do. So they asked Him to leave. But here on the other side of the lake at Capernaum are a crowd of people who are very glad to see Him arrive.

Now in that crowd were two people who Christ had appointments with. They were to be life changing events. This is true in most any crowd where true spiritual business is being done. Christ knows who are His and He will go out of His way to win them to Himself.

Now, in the midst of this crowd Jairus came up to Christ and fell at His feet and worshipped Him. And, as we saw in the people across the lake, Jairus began begging.

We need to keep in mind when we see Jairus begging that Jairus is a religious leader. This worship of Christ is likely to cost him with his fellow leaders. Keep that in mind.

And not only is Jairus worshipping, but he is begging. Now, when you see a person begging what do you usually assume about them? Think about it. What would make **you** beg? We usually will do everything we can to **not beg**. We see it as demeaning. We see it as humiliating. It is a very hard blow to our pride when we are forced to beg.

Well, I think we can be confident that if we are forced to beg there are two factors at play. First **we are desperate** and second **we are powerless**.

That is what Jairus here was confessing before this whole crowd.

First he was desperate for the life of his child. And second he was powerless to do anything about her condition. So he came to the one that could help, and threw himself at Christ's feet.

Now, you may despise begging normally. But there is one place that we should never be ashamed to beg. And that is at the feet of Christ. Because when we beg at Christ's feet, we are simply being congruent with the facts.

We truly are desperate. We absolutely need some things from Christ that we can get no other place. We desperately need our sins forgiven. We are lost forever if that does not happen. Only a fool is nonchalant about facing an eternity unprepared. So we are desperate.

And second, we are powerless. There is nothing we can do to meet our own need. We are beyond the realm of our resources. We can turn over a new leaf, take any vow of any kind, do acts of the greatest self sacrificing kindness, but it will do nothing in any way to get rid of the death penalty on us because of sins we have committed and from being born under the sin principle.

So if you are ever going to beg- beg at Christ's feet.

Now Jairus was not at all vague about what He wanted from Christ. We would do well to be like Jairus. There were no games. There was no indecision. Jairus was desperate to save his daughter and he was powerless to do so. So he came to ask Christ very specifically to do that one thing.

All of us who have children can easily put ourselves into Jairus's position.

Wouldn't we do anything to restore our sick children to health? And wouldn't we do this same thing if **their lives** were in danger. Would we **not be desperate** to get help? That is where Jairus was at. He got Christ's audience, and the way the text describes his conversation, He was going to keep begging until Christ either made him shut up or he got the help he was after.

If you want to know how to pray, Jairus is an example to follow. We see it spelled out in James.

James 5:16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. 17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years

and six months. 18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit. (NKJV)

Now Jairus did not know if it was God's will to heal his daughter. He could have been wrong. But Elijah **did know** that it was God's will that it would rain. And he prayed in that vein. He prayed, he asked, he begged expectantly. And he got what he asked for.

Notice too that Jairus was very accurate in describing his daughter's condition. She was at death's door. Yet he truly believed that Christ could heal her if he only chose to do so. He was believing in Christ. He was depending upon Christ. He was expectant of Christ. That is how we are to come to Christ when we come to Him to meet our greatest need. This is the attitude faith creates in us when we come to Christ for Him to save us from our sins, or for Him to do any of the things He promises to do.

Now, let's think just a little bit about Jairus. Suppose his daughter was not sick. Suppose everything was going happily along in his household. Do you suppose this man would have been throwing himself at Jesus feet on this day in worship? This man was one of the leaders at the local synagogue at Capernaum. Do you remember what had happened in that same synagogue where Jairus was a leader? **Luke 4:31 Then He went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and was teaching them on the Sabbaths. 32 And they were astonished at His teaching, for His word was with authority. 33 Now in the synagogue there was a man who had a spirit of an unclean demon. And he cried out with a loud voice, 34 saying, "Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are--the Holy One of God!" 35 But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet, and come out of him!" And when the demon had thrown him in *their* midst, it came out of him and did not hurt him. 36 Then they were all amazed and spoke among themselves, saying, "What a word this *is!* For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out." 37 And the report about Him went out into every place in the surrounding region. (NKJV)**

No doubt Jairus was in that synagogue. He may have been embarrassed that this man who had fellowshiped with them for years was **only found by Christ** to have been filled with a demon. The demon evidently was not disturbed up to that point.

Now Jairus knew what the upper Jewish leadership thought of Christ. They weren't exactly subtle about it. So Jairus knew what this **act of worship** toward Christ was likely to cost him in his **social and religious circles**. He certainly was ruining any chance he had at advancement in the religious circles.

The fact that Jairus was a leader also probably meant he had at least some wealth. He was a somebody in the community. He had status that had probably taken him a long time to gain.

But he threw all of that, he threw all of the public's opinion out the window. Why? To meet his desperate circumstances. Had life been going merrily along, Jairus probably would not have been calling upon Christ so radically.

And the same is true for every one of us. Sometimes the best thing that can happen to us is for our lives to crumble before our eyes. Great opportunities and great good fortune are rarely the things that cause us keen spiritual focus. **Good times** don't often drive us to repentance and spiritual growth. Normally **bad times** are the times that refocus our attention to the truths that really matter. Difficulties are the things that cause us to run into Christ's presence and get serious about our spiritual condition.

When we minister to others and when we talk to ourselves, we must keep in mind that often, when God is going to do a work in our lives, the first thing He will do is get our attention.

A new farmer was in need of a mule to plow his land. He went to **his neighbor** to see if he had a mule to sell. The **new farmer** asked if the mule had any problems that he should be aware of. **The neighbor** said that the mule would do anything he asked.

The **new farmer** took the mule home and the next day took him out to the field to plow. The **farmer** said, "Git up!" But the mule did nothing. He talked nice to the mule. Still nothing happened. Nothing he tried worked. After some time **the new farmer** called **his neighbor** and **his neighbor** came over right away.

After the new farmer explained what had happened, the neighbor went over and picked up a two-by-four. He hit the mule over the head. Then he whispered in the mule's ear. The mule then plowed the whole field. He told the mule to stop. The mule stopped. He told the mule to go to the barn. The mule went. **The new farmer** said, I don't get it. Why did that mule listen to you and not to me.

The neighbor said, "That mule will do anything you say. But first you have to get his attention."

Let me ask you. How many times in your life have desperation and powerlessness driven you to Christ's feet? How many times has it convinced you that all the other things that you thought were important in your life really weren't important at all? How many times have those situations caused you to reprioritize what really matters? How many times has God had to get **your attention**?

This is not something unusual. I am convinced that is why sometimes we face situations that seem hopeless in regard to a spouse or a child or a friend or even ourselves. This isn't the end of the world in one sense. But it is intended as a blow to **the world's hold on us** in another. God is getting our attention. And it is a

severe mercy. CS Lewis had a friend who wrote a book by that title. His name was Sheldon Vanauken. This man had a wife that he loved, deeply and wholeheartedly. They had a romance that was fit for a movie. But his wife died of cancer. In the course of events CS Lewis had the opportunity to share with this man that what happened to this man was a severe mercy. Had his wife lived, this man would have never done serious business with his spiritual state. But because his wife died, this man reoriented his life in his worship of Christ.

In our story, Jairus faced a crisis in his day to day life that drove him to the feet of Christ. It is very likely that nothing else would have had this effect. He may have never appealed to Christ had it not been for this desperate need. But it is very clear that God had his hand in this person's life. He had an appointment with Christ that God had fashioned long before this man ever became aware of it.

So when things appear to be falling apart in your life, remember that they may not be falling apart. It is possible they are falling together.

So Christ responded to this mans need. And again, how often have we found that true for us as well. Christ responds to our begging, to our crying out to Him in our powerlessness and desperation. And now the throng is on its way to Jairus's daughter's rescue.

25 Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years, 26 and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse.

Look what we have here. Another powerless and desperate person.

We have a woman with a physical condition that his plagued her for years.

Now, we need to keep in mind just what this condition meant to this woman.

Remember when we looked at just how awful leprosy was to those who had it?

The physical condition this woman had would be similar. She was continually unclean. So this condition would separate her socially and spiritually. And she would suffer the consequences of anemia and other conditions physically. This was way beyond inconvenient. It would be easy to feel cursed if you were a person with this condition. How would you like it if everyone you knew avoided you because you would cause them to be unclean if they so much as touched you? People would avoid all human touch. If they were kind, they may not say what they thought, but most everyone would dread seeing you coming because you create a very awkward and uncomfortable situation for them. And you would know it. And probably, you would have some sympathy for them. Because you, yourself, would not want to be unclean if you didn't have to be.

Now, it is interesting to me that this woman had this condition for the same amount of years that Jairus's daughter was alive. While Jairus was receiving pleasure from his daughter's presence for 12 years, this woman was suffering the consequences of her physical condition for 12 years.

12 years. Doesn't that seem a long time to wait? Why does God do that? Why does he allow things to go on for so long? Why do some people suffer through their whole lives? God **could** do something. But He does not.

The truth is, we don't know. All we know is that He will work it out for the good of every one of His followers. Sometimes it may be that God uses suffering to prepare people for future ministry to others that they could not do without that degree of suffering. Sometimes He is working out character changes that simply take a long time to accomplish. But sometimes we are simply left with the character of God to trust upon because we cannot see a clear reason. He promises that He has one. And sometimes that truth, alone, simply has to be enough for us. Note too that the doctors had done her no favors. This disease was probably incurable. But this woman was no victim. She continued to want to be free of any suffering that was not necessary. But in the course of her pursuits she had bankrupted herself. So this woman had nothing. She had no money. She had no status. She had no health. She was separated from family and friends. She had nothing to barter with or to commend herself with. And the world's resources had failed to deliver on their promises.

Have you ever been frustrated that the doctors cannot help you? Well you have a friend in this woman. They not only didn't help her. They made her worse.....and broke.

But then something changed. She heard about Christ.

27 When she heard about Jesus, she came behind *Him* in the crowd and touched His garment. 28 For she said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well."

Now, keep in mind that every person this woman touched became unclean. They might not know it. But **she** would know it. So she comes up with a plan to reach her destination with as little notice and contact as possible. She is going to sneak in from behind.

Now, what caused this woman to think that if she touched Christ's garment, she would be healed? Well, she had the faith to believe that Christ had the power to heal her. That is good. And she trusted that He would. And that is good and accurate. But touching His garment? That looks more like superstition than faith. This woman has an ill-informed faith. She trusts the person of Christ. She knows the power of Christ. But she is not very well informed for how that is supposed to work.

Do you find it interesting that this lack of understanding does not stand, in any way, between her and her healing by Christ? Isn't this a picture of the grace of God? He meets us where we are. Think about all the theology you were wrong about when you were a young person. Did that stop Christ from saving you? Did that stop Him from convicting you? Did it stop Christ from growing you in

Himself? No. The most important thing about a person is “Do they have faith in the person of Christ”? The most important thing is not that they have every single jot and tittle of theology correct. It is not that they know everything about the Christian life. The most important thing is do they believe the person of Christ, do they trust in Him and what He did to save them. We can trust God to work out all the details.

So this ill-informed woman approaches Christ and touches Him. What happens?

29 Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction.

Remember that this woman has had this condition for 12 long years. She took a risk approaching Christ. And Christ was clearly on a mission to rescue a big shot's daughter. She probably didn't want to interrupt that. But this woman was healed. Her heart had to be overjoyed. But mixed with that feeling was the concern to get out of the crowd as unnoticed as possible.

And that is where the trouble starts.

Now she touches Christ. Christ does not see her. The crowd doesn't even see her. But suddenly something happens.

30 And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched My clothes?"

Uh oh. From her perspective, she knows that she is the one. She knows that she received her healing from Christ just then. And she has to know she is the one He is looking for.

Now, from the disciples perspective, this seems like just a stupid question.

31 But His disciples said to Him, "You see the multitude thronging You, and You say, Who touched Me?" "

In the other accounts Christ says that power has gone out from Him.

Aren't the disciples just like us? They are always asking the wrong questions.

They are always pointing out the obvious to Christ, as if the creator of the universe is stupid. But isn't that just like us. We know what Christ wants, but we proceed to give Him a lot of useless information that He already knows. We tell Him how hard it is to do that which He asks. Or we tell Him that it doesn't make much sense to us. Or we tell Him that it is really an unnecessary request. Yeah. We know all about the disciples.

If they were spiritually attune to who Christ really was, the question they would have asked might be- what do you mean Lord? Did something happen that we are not aware of? Who are you looking for?

It is interesting that the word for thronging is similar to crushing. They are basically saying, Christ, you are being crushed by the crowd. So there are hundreds of people touching you.

32 And He looked around to see her who had done this thing.

Now, if you were one of the disciples and you saw Christ still looking around after you said what you said, how do you think you would feel? Christ treated their response as not worthy of a comment. The disciples had to feel a little bad about that. Evidently their comments had so little value, their contribution was so worthless that Christ was not even going to respond. He just kept looking to find the specific person he was talking about.

33 But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth.

While the disciples did not know what Christ was talking about, this woman did. She knew. So she confessed. She was scared to death. She took something from Christ without asking. She was putting the whole crowd at risk of being unclean. She may have thought she had made **Christ** unclean.

But that is always the interesting thing. No touch of the unclean ever makes Him unclean. He always makes the unclean party clean.

But the woman confesses....everything.

Now, why would Christ have done this? Why did He take this time to make her tell her story?

Well first, it was good for the crowd to hear what had just happened. It was good for them to know what Christ had done here.

Second, it was good for this woman to have an opportunity to profess her faith in Christ and to witness to her encounter with Christ. This is going to be important going forward in this person's life.

And third, this had to be encouraging to Jairus. He came to Christ in faith, and his faith is about to be sorely tested.

Now how did Christ respond to this nobody? This woman who took healing from Him? This interruption to his travels?

34 And He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction."

Notice the word "daughter". Who else has a daughter in this text? Jairus. How appropriate it is for Christ to take care of **His daughter** on the way to Jairus taking care of **his daughter**.

Christ did not often refer to people as family members. Maybe he had a special place in his heart for this woman. This woman who did not want to trouble Christ with her request. This woman who probably did not think much at all of herself. But this tenacious woman who trusted Christ and did not want to be a victim to her circumstances any more than she needed to be.

So the term daughter was an affectionate term and would have immediately conveyed that this woman was in tender and affectionate standing with Christ.

How confirming that word must have been received.

Then Christ explains. It is not as you may have thought. It is not your superstition that proved to be true. It isn't that touching my tassles on my garment heals anyone who does it. It is your belief in me as the Son of God that healed you. I responded to the faith that I placed in your heart. That is what had this positive effect in you.

John MacArthur makes an important point here that makes a lot of sense to me. He says that when Christ says that "your faith has made you whole", the focus is on the word "your". Many times people ask for healing, or other things, and Christ grants it, but he says nothing of their faith. Sometimes he does. And when Christ does mention faith, it may be because that person has a saving faith in Christ. So when He says, your faith has made you well, what He may be saying is I am responding to the faith you already have to make you well, as opposed to "I am making you well simply because I have the power to do so." I think that is food for thought.

And Christ goes on. And what he says next is even more controversial. In this he speaks like a priest would speak when announcing a person to no longer be unclean. He says, **Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction."**

He is basically telling her, you are now restored. You are healed. You are no longer unclean. You don't need to go see the priest. I am pronouncing it so. Now keep in mind Jairus is right there. He would have instantly sensed the implications. And right then, he probably was not in the frame of mind to criticize. He has his own problems. But it was probably noted what Christ did. He had to know that Christ was claiming priestly authority to do such a thing.

And then, on top of that, the wording used for "healed of your affliction" is wording that is often used to refer to sin. He was more than saying, go your way healed of your physical condition. He was saying you are also fully healed of your spiritual condition.

Wonder of wonders. How wonderful this was for this woman who had come looking for physical relief and had left with **eternal salvation and physical health.**

We can see that if it took 12 years of illness to prepare her for this event, it was well worth the wait. She came to Christ spiritually lost and physically ill. She left cured in every sense of the word.

We will continue this text next week, Lord willing.

For this week I hope we will consider just how well our Savior knows us and how well he uses the difficult things in our lives for His purposes. We should gain comfort and encouragement that often our difficulties are not a proof that God hates us or wants to punish us. It is often that He wants to draw us to Himself. Ultimately He wants the fellowship of His children. It is then that they most Glorify Him.