

First Baptist Church Merritt Island
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Real People. Real Faith.
Mark 5:21-43

This morning we are concluding a unique section of the Gospel of Mark that began in chapter 4 with Jesus telling four parables revealing the mysteries of the Kingdom of God and then immediately follows these 4 parables with 4 miracles of Jesus.

The last two weeks of miracles have taught us:

- Jesus is our PEACE in the storm. With Jesus giving the simple command of “Peace! Be still!”, the winds and waves obeyed.
- Jesus is our FREEDOM from every captivity. With Jesus saying to the legions of demons filling a man, “Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!”, the man walked in new found freedom found in Jesus.

This week we look at the 3rd and 4th miracles. These two miracles are told in one unit and will reveal that Jesus is our HOPE for salvation.

Before we read the passage, it is important to see how Mark introduces us to these last two miracles in his sequence. By combining these two stories of real people with real faith, Mark is helping us see and hear even greater depths and riches of truth.

It is a writing technique unique to this Gospel and called a “Markan sandwich.” Let me describe what a “Markan sandwich” is in Mobile, Alabama terms:

- There is a historic BBQ restaurant close to the University of Alabama called Dreamland.
- 2 pieces of white bread with meat smoked to perfection in between.
- You don’t go to Dreamland for white bread. You go for what is in between those pieces of starch.
- Mark uses the middle section, the meaty section, to shine a light on the surrounding sections and brings out magnificent truths when placed one inside the other.

Mark 5:21-43

And when Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered about him, and he was beside the sea. ²² Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, and seeing him, he fell at his feet ²³ and implored him earnestly, saying, “My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live.” ²⁴ And he went with him. And a great crowd followed him and thronged about him. ²⁵ And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, ²⁶ and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. ²⁷ She had heard the reports about Jesus and

came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. ²⁸ For she said, “If I touch even his garments, I will be made well.” ²⁹ And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. ³⁰ And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone out from him, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, “Who touched my garments?” ³¹ And his disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, ‘Who touched me?’” ³² And he looked around to see who had done it. ³³ But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling 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 disease.” ³⁵ While he was still speaking, there came from the ruler’s house some who said, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?” ³⁶ But overhearing^[e] what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, “Do not fear, only believe.” ³⁷ And he allowed no one to follow him except Peter and James and John the brother of James. ³⁸ They came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and Jesus^[f] saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. ³⁹ And when he had entered, he said to them, “Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping.” ⁴⁰ And they laughed at him. But he put them all outside and took the child’s father and mother and those who were with him and went in where the child was. ⁴¹ Taking her by the hand he said to her, “Talitha cumi,” which means, “Little girl, I say to you, arise.” ⁴² And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement. ⁴³ And he strictly charged them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

This story of the woman reaching out to touch Jesus is not placed here to be a suspenseful delay to the ending of Jairus’ story. This woman’s story is not an interruption, it is the main event! This woman’s story shines a bright light on how faith in Jesus is our hope for salvation.

Let’s meet these Real People.

1. A woman, who touched His garment.

Mark 5:25-27

²⁵ And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, ²⁶ and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. ²⁷ She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment.

Her description is built off 7 participle phrases (longest sentence in the book of Mark).

- i. who had a discharge of blood for 12 years
 - considered ritually unclean

- isolated from relationships
- excluded from religious community
- ii. who had suffered much under many physicians
 - her story would have been known in the community as she went from physician to physician for help until all hope was gone
 - no doubt she was greatly taken advantage of over time
- iii. who had spent all she had
 - she invested everything she had and tried every possibility for her salvation from this tormenting affliction to no avail
- iv. who was no better
- v. who had gotten worse
 - every day for 12 years became a deeper pain, greater struggle
 - and just went all seemed hopeless....
- vi. who had heard the reports about Jesus
 - ahhhhh...here is the good seed that had been sown by the Good Sower
 - her ears heard about Jesus, but would her heart hear in faith
- vii. who came up behind him in the crowd
 - YES! Faith follows Jesus and that is exactly what she did
 - we will unpack this more in a minute

The most significant description of this woman is how she is identified throughout this story.

- She is simply called, “a woman”.
- A nameless woman.
- She was only known by her disease to everyone around her.
- After 12 years of the disease, I bet she only knew herself through this disease that she could not conquer.

2. In complete contrast, we also meet a man with a name. His name is Jairus.

- i. A synagogue ruler which tells us...
 - Jarius would be known by all as one of the centerpieces of his community.
 - Think of Jairus as the town Mayor.
 - He would have lived a life of privilege, honor, and responsibility.
- ii. But his greater role in this story is not that of a respected community leader but that of a desperate father of a dying daughter.
 - His 12-year-old girl was on her death bed.
 - All of Jairus resources would not be able to help his daughter to live.

What does this woman and Jairus have in common? Here’s the real story that Mark is telling. The woman with the issue of blood and Jairus need the same thing: a Savior. Both were desperate for him to save them from their overwhelming fear of death. The woman was desperate for Jesus to save her from life departing out of her for past 12

years. She was experiencing a daily, perpetual dieing that would not end. Jairus was desperate for Jesus to breathe life into his dying 12-year-old girl.

On this day, twelve years in the waiting, designed by God's sovereign grace, two people from opposite ends of society's spectrum would fall at Jesus' feet and experience His life-giving power. Their hearts were good soil where the good seed could produce good fruit. They were Real People coming to Jesus in Real Faith.

Let's take some time this morning and learn from their faith placed in Jesus.

1. Real Faith Trusts in the Person, Word, and Work of Jesus

Jesus was the only hope for this woman. After 12 years of desperate relief, she had only one plan: Jesus. She had no Plan B, no if/then demands, or control issues. All she had was full surrender to the only who could save her.

Mark 5:27-28

27 She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. 28 For she said, "If I touch even his garments, I will be made well."

She came up behind him in the crowd. She broke every rule of her required isolation to get to Jesus. She was declared religiously unclean and was to stay isolated from the community. But faith runs TO Jesus not away from Him. Faith presses IN not pulls back. This is precisely what her faith did. She touched the hem of his garment. The Gospel of Luke reads, "touched the fringe of his garment". I believe this is an easily missed statement of this woman's faith. She didn't just touch a hemline of a ragged robe; she touched something specific that God commanded the men of Israel to wear throughout the generation that had great meaning.

Jesus came as a Jewish man and fulfilled every dot and tittle of God's law including Numbers 15:37-41. It reads:

37 The LORD said to Moses, 38 "Speak to the people of Israel, and tell them to make tassels on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a cord of blue on the tassel of each corner. 39 And it shall be a tassel for you to look at and remember all the commandments of the LORD, to do them, not to follow^[e] after your own heart and your own eyes, which you are inclined to where after. 40 So you shall remember and do all my commandments, and be holy to your God. 41 I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt to be your God: I am the LORD your God."

These tassels are called Tzitzit and are placed on an outer garment. They serve to remind the children of Israel of all the LORD's commandments, and to keep their eyes set on and heart surrendered to the One who saved them from Egypt.

This woman with the issue of blood is reaching out to touch the tassel believing God when He said, "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt to be your God: I am the LORD your God." I believe this woman's faith sees the Person of Jesus as the great I AM who can bring her out of her own Egypt's captivity, her disease that has held her in bondage for 12 years. She believes Jesus is the one who can take her uncleanness away and make her "holy to her God." I believe this woman is at the point of fully trusting with everything she has in the person, work, and work of Jesus, the Son of God.

2. Real Faith Believes Christ is the Hope of Salvation

Both this woman and Jairus hope for the same thing: "to be made well". The woman said in her heart,

Mark 5:28

²⁸ For she said, "If I touch even his garments, I will be made well."

Jairus pleads with Jesus,

Mark 5:23

²³ and implored him earnestly, saying, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live."

The phrase, be made well, is one Greek word, Soso, which means to save, deliver, make whole. This woman and Jairus are appealing to Jesus as their Savior. They are not asking Jesus to fix a problem or improve a situation; they are pleading with Jesus to give them life where there is death.

Jesus didn't come to give you temporary relief from death, He came to SAVE you from death and its fears. They are laying their dying-lives before Him and asking for His resurrection power. That is real faith! They are saying, "Jesus, please save me. Jesus, give me life because I am dead without you."

The same Greek word, Soso, is found throughout scripture. One powerful use of Soso is in Romans 10:11-13.

¹¹ For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³ For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Faith is only as valuable as its Savior. Faith is not its own Savior; it requires a Savior. Are you placing your faith in faith? Salvation comes BY GRACE — THROUGH FAITH — IN CHRIST ALONE!

Faith doesn't make Jesus its servant. Faith is the fully surrendered and trusting servant of Jesus. There is only one Savior and His name is Jesus. He is a Savior with complete authority and power to save.

3. Real Faith Grows in the Waiting

For Jairus and family, the waiting was hours. For the woman it was 12 years. What seems like a "delay" for us is God's sovereign timing for our good and His glory.

I love this verse. **Mark 5:24. And he went with him.** After Jairus fell on his knees and implored with Jesus to save his daughter's life, what did Jairus do, he went with Him. Jairus followed Jesus. When it feels like Jesus is delaying His answer or work, do what Jairus did: follow Jesus!

Jesus knew what Jairus' faith needed, and He knows what your faith needs. Remember, Jesus is the author and finisher of faith, your faith! Jairus needed to see and learn from the faith of this woman who touched the hem of Jesus' garment. Jairus needed to rest in the patience of faith and not live in the panic of fear. Jairus needed to hear Jesus say...**Mark 5:34, And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."**

Do you think that Jairus' faith increased or decreased? It multiplied! When word came back to Jairus that his daughter had died, who is standing with him? Jesus! Jairus' heart was good soil to hear and obey when Jesus said to him, **Mark 5:36, Do not fear, only believe."**

This is what I know. In the waiting, hearing His word becomes the heart's only desire. Jesus, I don't care what you say, just, that you say. Hidden things are revealed. The fears of the flesh are exposed. The Author and Finisher of faith is fully known. We rest and God works. Faith begins as a mustard seed and grows to its fullest measure.

Big Idea: REAL PEOPLE need REAL FAITH so they can know the REAL JESUS.

4. Jesus is the Giver of Life

With one touch of the hem of Jesus' garment, the woman's 12-year journey ended. Death stopped flowing from her because new life now flowed in her.

After healing the woman, Jairus, Peter, James and John FOLLOWED Jesus to Jairus' home. Upon arriving, Jesus removed every person grieving from a place of worldly unbelief. Only Mom, Dad, and three disciples entered the room to witness the miracle of life.

This time it would be Jesus who reaches out to touch. Jesus went to Jairus' daughter, took her hand and said, "Little girl, I say to you, arise". Immediately she got up and immediately they were overcome with amazement. Jesus is the giver of life. Death has no power over the command of Jesus. When He says, "Arise," death must flee.

I want to end with a thought that overwhelmed me yesterday as I kept thinking on this passage. Jesus knows all things. Right? He knew this woman's name but never said it. In the moment most primed for her name to be said receive long awaited identity, dignity, and respect, Jesus doesn't say it. He chose a greater dignity and honor for her than her earthly name, a greater identity than this flesh's namesake. What does he call her? "Daughter". **Mark 5:34, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."**

He claims her eternally as His own. As His own, she receives the blessings and gifts that are His to give. The Prince of Peace commands go now and always in peace. The Great Physician commands be now and always healed of your affliction. By grace, through her faith and in Christ, 12 years of misery and shame were transformed into a glorious eternity with Him. From that day through eternity, she would be called, "The Daughter of the Great I Am."

Does Jesus call you His son or daughter? *Romans 8:13, "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."* Is faith real in your life?

Real Faith trusts in the person, word, and work of Christ. Real Faith believes Christ is the hope of salvation. Real Faith grows in the waiting.

Real Jesus is the giver of LIFE.