

Sunday, June 1, 2025

More Like Jesus

Mark 5: 21-43

- Today we are going to look at two different people that find themselves in incredibly difficult situations
- One is a man, who loves his daughter.
 - He's got a good job, he's well known in his community, but NOTHING means more to him than his little girl
 - For the past 12 years she has been the apple of his eye
 - But one day she seemed a little off. She got sick like kids do, but days go by and she's getting worse and worse
 - Eventually she loses consciousness, she's just laid up in the bed unresponsive and the doctors have no idea what is going on.

- Mom and Dad are terrified, they're consulting with every single medical professional in the area and praying harder than they ever have before
- But the experts are telling them to prepare for the worst, and begin to say your goodbyes while you have the chance
- Dad refuses to believe that this is the end for his little girl, he refuses to say goodbye...and he storms out of the house
- At the same time in the same town, there is a lady who has been dealing with a female issue for the past 12 years
 - As one commentator put it, she has "An unceasing hemorrhage"
 - Like the dad who is losing his daughter, she has exhausted all of her options and resources trying to find a solution...but she has only gotten worse

- And these two desperate people will have their stories converge as they both try the one thing that they hadn't tried yet.
- Their last option, their final ounce of hope, comes to mind when they realize that Jesus has come back into town
- Look with me in Mark chapter 5, beginning in verse 21: ***“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. Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, and seeing Him, he fell at His feet 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.” And He went with him. And a great crowd followed Him and thronged about Him. And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she***

had, and was no better but rather grew worse. She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment. For she said, “If I touch even His garments, I will be made well.” -Mark 5:21-28 (ESV)

- In this account I believe Mark not only shows us what the Power of Christ can accomplish, but he also teaches us some valuable lessons about Faith. Where Faith comes from, what Faith can do, and why we need to just, trust, Him.
- PRAY
- I'm the type of guy that is loyal to a fault
- Some of you. may have surmised that by now with how I talk about my Philadelphia sports
 - But its just engrained in me, that when I pick a side, thats it! And I'm on that side forever!
 - And now that I have married into a Bronco family, I have chosen that side.

- Some of you may not realize but there is a bit of a rivalry between Jeeps and Broncos
- Some may think that they are very similar cars but don't you dare say that to an owner of a Jeep or a Bronco
- Well I never really cared that much before, but since I married into Rachel's family who has a long history of restoring classic Broncos, going to Bronco rallies, and now that Rachel has her Bronco I am now deeply embedded into the Bronco world.
- Even Fletcher has his own ride-in Bronco that his grandpa got him for Christmas!
- So I kind of have to be all in now...I am on that side!
- But every once in a while, something happens where you don't really care about your side, or what side you are on anymore.
- Your strong stance doesn't seem that important, or just takes a back seat to something else
- And most of the time that happens because of your kids.
- A few weeks back, Fletcher and I were in the store. And they had a stand with a bunch of toy cars on it. He loves his cars!
- He's a two year old boy, right, he loves nothing more than Cars and Roars right now
- And on this stand there were a bunch of Broncos, so of course I'm going to get him one
- So I'm taking him through all of the options
 - "Hey, heres a Red one"
 - "Hey this one looks like mama's, this one looks like uncle Nicks, this one looks like Winnie's"
 - "Here's a yellow one, a blue one"
- And he's looking at all of them with a big smile...and then I say, "Ok, which one do you want?"
- And he looks around....and he points....and I say, "Oh noooo..."

- Because he pointed to a Black Jeep...
- And I sayyyy, “Ohh come on buddy, don’t you want a Bronco?! Here’s get the yellow one and the blue one, I’ll even let you get two!”
- And he points again to the Black Jeep...puts his lip out, clasps his hands together and says, “Pweeeease!”
- So what do you think happened?! He got the Black Jeep
- These kids man...they make me soft sometimes
- But if you’re a parent you know the feeling about how sometimes you’ll put whatever petty stance you have aside for a moment just to put a smile on your kids face.
- Now Jarius’ was in a much more serious situation. And because of his child, he wasn’t thinking about what “side” he was supposed to be on. at all.
- You see, Jarius was a ruler of the synagogue
- It was his job, to run all of the business aspects of the synagogue as well as direct the services and did a majority of the teaching.
- He was a very important man in the community, the highest spiritual authority in some people’s lives. He had a lot of responsibility...and most all of the Rulers of the Synagogue’s were Pharisees
- So Jairus was most likely a Pharisee himself.
- And we have seen how much the Pharisees have been coming against Jesus.
- They are so NOT on His side, that they are even going to the extreme of partnering up with their own political rivals, the Herodians, in order to try and get rid of of Jesus and find a plan to destroy Him.
- Now, we don’t know exactly what Jairus’ personal stance on Jesus was, but we do know that his side was not with Him.

- But now, at his greatest moment of need, he doesn't care what his other Pharisee friends think, he doesn't care about who's on who's side, or any of the pettiness whatsoever
- All he cares about is the fact that Jesus is a known healer, he's probably even witnessed Jesus heal people with his own eyes
- And the only thing that matters now, is getting to Jesus and bringing Jesus to His little girl...He's desperate.
- Which leads us to our first point for today:

- FAITH IS CREATED OUT OF DESPERATION

- We have two different people in this story, in different situations, but their desperation leads them both to the feet of Jesus.
- Because of Jarius' desperation, he has complete faith that Jesus can and will heal his daughter
- He says, "Come and lay Your hands on my daughter SO THAT she will be made well and live!"

- He expresses no doubt in Jesus' ability whatsoever!
- He now recognizes the touch of Jesus as the most powerful and important thing in the world
- And if it wasn't for the darkest, most terrifying moment of his life...he may not have ever had that kind of faith to go to Jesus, pay homage to Jesus, and express his faith in the Power of Jesus like that
- Sometimes the best situation we can be in, in our lives is a desperate situation....IF we allow it to lead us to Him
 - Life will get difficult for all of us at one point or another, and I do believe that God allows us to go through those seasons because without them we may never give Him a second thought
- That's why the phrase, "God will never give you more than you can handle" is a really dumb statement

- Because if God never gave us more than we could handle, why would we ever need Him?
- No, He allows us to go through this life that is WAY more than we can handle, so that we will turn to the One that can handle the things that we can't.
- There's a reason why Jesus' first two beatitudes are for those in desperate situations
- ***“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”***
-Matthew 5:3-4 (ESV)
- ***“Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.”***
-Psalm 50:15 (ESV)
- Jairus is in his day of trouble, and He is calling on Jesus because he has been given something that he can't handle
 - And Jesus agrees to go with him.
- And as they are on their way to rescue Jairus' daughter, their travel plans get interrupted by another person dealing with something that was more than she could handle.
- This woman had been desperate for the past 12 years
 - And her desperation has just grown worse and worse. Because not only has her condition gotten worse, but she had spent just about every penny she had paying those doctors who just made it worse!
 - For the past 12 years her life has been nothing but failed recovery
- She has no social life because she would have been deemed unclean
 - She essentially is having to live as a leper because she was not allowed to have any human contact while she was bleeding

- She also was never allowed to participate in any form of worship at the temple or in the synagogue
- She has exhausted every single option and resource at her disposal...and NOTHING has worked
- But, she believes that if she could just at least grab hold to a piece of Jesus clothes, just for a second, her greatest issue could be taken care of
- So she risks it. She was not allowed to make contact with other people or they would have been deemed ceremonially unclean and would have to go through the purification rituals.
 - So just being in that crowd, rubbing elbows with other people could make her eligible to be stoned.
- So she conceals herself in the crowd, and pushes and fights her way through anyway.
 - She's getting closer but not close enough. So she fights and squirms a bit harder,

squeezing through one row of people at a time

- And then finally she's close, and she reaches her arm past the two people in front of her, and she just grabs the back of his garment.
- The word "touched" used in this passage means "to fasten to"
- So she was able to grab on at least for a split second...

- PUT UP V. 29-33 (FIRST SLIDE)

- And immediately she felt the healing take place within her body
- And at the same time, Jesus was able to feel the supernatural power leave His
- And He stopped, and turned around
- And I imagine at this moment the crowd stopped with Him. And everyone grew silent, because He looked like He was about to say something important

- NEXT SLIDE

- Then Jesus says, “Who touched My clothes?”
 - No one is saying anything now, it’s gotten kind of awkward...
- The disciples speak up and say, “Jesus, what are You talking about....theres a whole mob of people around, You’ve probably had a hundred different people touch Your clothes in the past 15 mins!”
- But Jesus keeps looking...He needs to find her!

- **NEXT SLIDE**

- And the woman comes forward, in fear and trembling, the bible says. And she tells Jesus what happened
- She probably says something like, “I’m sorry Jesus I know I shouldn’t be here, I know that I’m unclean, but I just knew that if I could get at least within reach of you I could be set free from this thing that has plagued me the past 12 years! I just had to try!”

- And Jesus, calms her down...***“And He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.” -Mark 5:34 (ESV)***
- Now this word disease is better translated affliction. Because the greek word “*Mastix*” (*MOSS-TEEKS*)— means “*to whip, or to scourge*”
 - In Acts chapter 22 when Paul is ordered to be flogged and beaten, this word Mastix is the same word that was used there
- Here’s the point: **FAITH RELEASES YOU FROM AFFLICTION**
 - The faith that this woman has in Jesus released her from the affliction that had been whipping her and scrounging her for the past 12 years!
 - This disease had been scourging her Life, her finances, her relationships, her worship, her physical health as well as her mental health!

- This thing has been beating her down in every facet of her life and she was released from it all because of her faith!
- Now...it wasn't because of her. It wasn't the fact that she just had faith. What mattered was the object of her faith. Her faith wasn't in her healing, her faith was in Jesus
- Her faith was in Him being who He said He was and His power!
- But this is exactly why Jesus needed to stop and find this woman. And eye ball her
 - Because she thought her greatest need was a physical healing...but it wasn't.
 - Her greatest need was a saving faith. And Jesus wanted her and everyone to know that she had it!
- First He calls her Daughter!
 - When's the last time someone had claimed her!
- And this term literally means: ***Daughter (thygatēr): A daughter of God; acceptable to God, rejoicing in God's peculiar care and protection***
 - Jesus is not just healing her body here in this passage. He is restoring her dignity, her significance.
 - This woman who had been outcasted for so long is now being told by the God man, that she belongs! That she's accepted!
 - He tells her to go in Peace: That word Peace means "to be secure from hostile attack"
 - People will no longer be able to attack her because of her affliction
 - The enemy will no longer be able to attack her worship
 - Hell is no longer be a threat to her soul
 - Because she has been found in the loving acceptance of Jesus which made her a true daughter of God

- And that's all well and good...but WAHT ABOUT JARIUS' DAUGHTER!!

- Did we forget the mission at hand??

- I know how I feel on the inside whenever we take an unnecessary pit stop on a road trip and I see that GPS ETA ticking up.

- I know how torn up I get if someone is making me run late for a tee time on the golf course.

- So If I'm Jarius, I'm getting torn up on the inside with every second that we're losing!

- Let's get a move on!

- Yes, that's great that this woman has been healed Jesus, but her condition is obviously not life threatening! Jarius' daughter's condition is!! Let's focus!

- I can't imagine how flustered Jarius is at this moment, with everything stopping.

- And as Jesus is speaking to this woman, in the midst of this delay, Jarius get the news he had been dreading all along.

- ***"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?" But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe."***
-Mark 5:35-36 (ESV)

- Here's our third point for today:

- **FAITH IS TRUSTING IN HIS TIMING**

- That word "believe" literally means "to trust"

- So essentially this man gets the most devastating news of his life. And Jesus looks at him and just says, "It's ok, just Trust Me."

- Now that can be a very hard thing to do.

- I don't know what kind of tragedy you may or may not have experienced in your life.

- But there are these moments like Jarius is going through right now where you are completely devastated and feel completely hopeless.
- This is beyond the point of desperation now because even the thing that you were desperate for is seemingly out of reach.
- But in those moments I believe that Jesus is still speaking to our hearts and our souls through His Holy Spirit, saying, “It’s ok, just Trust Me.”
- And trusting in His timing can be such a difficult thing because we have no idea how to anticipate what His timing is going to be and what it is going to look like.
 - Sometimes Faith makes you wait which is uncomfortable
 - Other Times Faith speeds things up which is uncomfortable
 - But it’s His timing, not ours.
- We just keep seeking His face, and trusting His will.
- You see, because the person that came to Jarius asking the rhetorical question, “Why trouble Jesus anymore?” was way off!
- NEVER stop Troubling Jesus!
 - Now, this is something that I personally struggle with, because growing up as the youngest of 5, it was one of my missions to not be annoying, to not be a pest.
 - And in turn sometimes I feel like if I pray about something once, I need to stop bothering God about it
 - Which is a wrong way to think.
- In Luke 18 Jesus tells a parable to His disciples to teach them that they should always pray and never give up.
- He said that there was a judge in a certain city who didn’t fear God or care about people. And a widow would constantly come to this judge, saying, ‘Give me justice in a dispute I have with

my enemy.' The judge ignored her for a while, but finally he said to himself, 'I don't fear God or care about people, but this woman is driving me crazy. I'm going to see that she gets justice, because she is wearing me out with her constant requests!'"

- And then in verse 6, Jesus says, ***“Learn a lesson from this unjust judge. Even he rendered a just decision in the end. So don’t you think God will surely give justice to His chosen people who cry out to Him day and night? Will He keep putting them off? I tell you, He will grant justice to them quickly! But when the Son of Man returns, how many will He find on the earth who have faith?” -Luke 18: 6-8 (NLT)***
- You see, God always wants us to badger Him with our requests. That’s why Peter says to cast ALL your cares about Him because He cares for you!
 - And the main reason why we need to continually pray over all of our cares and

concerns, is because the more we take our problems to Him, the more that we will begin to trust in His timing and His process

- We’ll learn to take our hands off of the things that we can’t control and leave them at His feet.
- This is what Jesus is teaching Jairus here in this moment.
- After Jairus gets this news, Jesus puts an end to the spectacle. He disperses the crowd and most of the Disciples.
- Verse 37 says, ***“And He allowed no one to follow Him except Peter and James and John the brother of James. They came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and Jesus saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly.” -Mark 5:37-38 (ESV)***
- Now, you have to understand how these ancient funerals would work.

- Because they were much different than our funerals that we have today
 - Our funerals are more often than not, very quiet and somber affairs
 - We have a moment's of silence to honor someone who died
- However, back then, in this part of the world, you didn't honor the dead with silence, you honored them with loud chaotic noises
 - These funerals would have hired professional mourners, mostly women, who would weep and wail over the deceased.
 - They would also have flute players that would play in loud chaotic tones.
 - In this culture, the louder and more intense the mourning sounds were, the more it showed the love for the deceased
 - In the Talmud, it stated that even the poorest in Israel were not to hire NO LESS than two flute players and one wailing women for their funerals
- Now, Jairus' family obviously wasn't poor, so there would have been a crowd of wailers and flute players making a big commotion, showing how much this daughter was loved, how much her family is respected, and how precious she was to their community.
- But Jesus shows up and essentially says, "What's all the fuss about?"
- In verse 39 it reads, ***"And when He had entered, He said to them, 'Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping.' -Mark 5:39 (ESV)"***
- Now, this is not the only time that Jesus refers to death as sleep.
 - We see in John chapter 11, when Jesus gets word that Lazarus is sick, He stays were He is a few more days, and then He finally tells His disciples that it's time to go because, quote, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him."

- The disciples are like “Uhhh Jesus, if he’s sleeping he’ll wake up on his own...”
- They weren’t getting it, so Jesus just tells them plainly... “He’s dead guys, come on, keep up...”
- But really one of the major things that Jesus accomplished while He was on this earth was changing the definition of death
- And that’s another thing that Faith does:
- **FAITH REDEFINES DEATH IN THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER**
- And Jesus’ reference of death as sleep is a continuing pattern in the new testament
- Paul says to the Thessalonians: ***“But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with Him those who have***

fallen asleep.” -1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 (ESV)

- In 1 Corinthians, when Paul is talking about the 2nd coming of Christ he says that we will not all “sleep” but we all will be changed
- In Acts chapter 7, while Stephen is being stoned, he cries out to God to not hold the sins against his killers...and the bible says, ***“And when he had said this, he fell asleep.” -Acts 7:60 (ESV)***
- Why is this sleeping language used? I believe it is because you don’t fear sleep. In fact, the older you get the more you look forward to sleep!
- And death is not something that the believer is supposed to fear...because Jesus has redefined it
- When you have saving faith in Jesus, death is no longer the end-all-be-all
- Death is really just the beginning

- And the Bible likens death, to the believer, as refreshing as getting a nice nap or a good nights sleep
- That's why Paul says, ***"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."***
-Philippians 1:21 (ESV)
- How can that be possible? Well he explains to the Corinthians, ***"We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord."*** -2
Corinthians 5:8 (NKJV)
- Furthermore in 1 Corinthians 15: ***"Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"***
The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." -1 ***Corinthians 15:55-57 (ESV)***
- Now, the people Jesus is with don't really get this yet and verse 40 says, ***"And they laughed at Him."*** -Mark 5:40 (ESV)
- That word "laughed" means: to laugh to scorn, to deride, to ridicule
- They are ridiculing Jesus now...but He just kicks them all out of the house
- Continuing Verse 40: ***"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. Taking her by the hand He said to her, "Talitha cumi," which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise."*** -Mark 5:40-41 (ESV)
- Here we see the compassion of Jesus on full display
- First off, His compassion is shown just by being there...He didn't have to make the trip, He have to fight with the crowds and mourners to get them all out of the way
 - But Jesus didn't leave Jairus' side in the midst of his darkest moment
- And then Jesus goes and takes his little girl by the hand, and Mark is very intentional about

giving us this Aramaic saying that Jesus spoke.

- Because in the Aramaic, this word *Talitha* means “Little lamb”
- Which was a common pet name for a little girl
- It would be like us saying, “Honey,” or “Sweetheart”
- So Jesus essentially says, “Sweetheart, it’s time to get up” just like a parent would wake their child from a nap
- And verse 42 says: ***“And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement. And He strictly charged them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.” -Mark 5:42-43 (ESV)***
- Man, I love this so much! Jesus takes this girl by the hand, gently wakes her up, she

immediately gets up at full strength as if she were really just taking a nap like He said

- They’re overcome with amazement- and Jesus essentially says, *“Don’t make a big deal about it, just go get her a snack.”*
- Man, Jesus is the best!
- But there is just one final point that I want to make today:
- And that is that: **FAITH COMES FROM JESUS TAKING YOU BY THE HAND**
- Because essentially this is what the Gospel looks like
- Make no mistake: Christianity is not about bad people becoming good. It’s about dead people coming alive in Christ
 - As Pastor Mark referenced last week, Ephesians 2 says we were nothing but dead in our trespasses and our sins

- But GOD! Being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, made us alive together with Christ
- So apart from Him, we are nothing but dead, hopeless individuals...that is until Jesus comes and takes us by the hand. And says, “Buddy, or Honey, It’s time to get up!”
- And immediately our lives are changed, we get up to a new life, we walk with a new purpose, and we are forever changed and lead by the power of God
- It’s interesting that we get the detail that this little girl was 12 years old. And also that the woman had her flow of blood for 12 years.
- So it got me thinking that this had to be intentional and there had to be significance to the number 12 here
 - And I looked but what the biblical symbolism of the number 12 was and the results were interesting
- You see, 12 was seen to be the number of Authority, and Order
 - Specifically a governmental order which is why there were 12 tribes of Israel, in the Old Testament God established 2 sets of 12 priestly divisions
 - And Jesus established 12 apostles to lead the New Testament Church
- So what this tells me is that the Authority of Jesus is here to bring order to our lives!
 - Apart from Him, our lives are filled with desperation, affliction, confusion, and chaos....all leading to us being dead spiritually and staying dead eternally
- But Jesus, in all of His authority, steps into the middle of all of that and brings Hope into our desperation, freedom from our afflictions, peace in our moments of trouble, and order to all of the chaos
- And if He is willing to take us by the Hand and raise us up to eternal life, we should keep hold

of his hand and let Him lead us through this mortal one as well.

- I have one more Fletcher story for you today: I know that we have two kids now, but Myers is still a little too young to be a sermon illustration yet....he'll get there
- But Fletcher has this thing he like to do recently, where when he's up to something, he taps his chin with his finger, looks around, and then goes, "Ahhh! Idea!!"
 - Then he proceeds to take me by the hand, and lead me toward, what is more often than not,....a pretty bad idea
 - And if I try to lead him by the hand in different direction that's when he wines and complains...."No, No, Idea, Idea!"
 - That is unless he gets scared after his bad idea inevitably blows up in his face...THEN he is more than happy to let me lead him!
- But you see that's how we treat the Lord so often. We have an idea, we're excited about it,

and yea we acknowledge Him, but its as if we're taking Him by the hand and wanting Him to follow us!

- That is until our plans inevitably blow up in our face and then hopefully we would then have the wherewithal to say, "You know what Lord?! YOU take me by the hand! YOU lead me wherever YOU would have me go!"
- "YOU'RE in charge, YOU'RE in Control, YOU'RE the One with all the power and authority"
- "So I trust YOU, to meet me in my desperation, to deliver me from my affliction, I trust in YOU'RE timing and what YOU say!"
 - "So lead me and guide me, because YOU are God, YOU are Lord, YOU are master... and everything I am, and everything I have is YOURS"