

Mark 5:21-43
**The Power and
Compassion of Jesus**

1

Introduction

Jesus came to conquer sin and death which are a result of man's sin against God. We have seen Jesus exercise His power over nature, the spiritual realm, and now over disease and death.

In this passage we also see Jesus' compassion to those who are broken under the consequences of the curse of sin and death.

2

Mark 5:21-43

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." ³⁵ While He was still speaking, *some* came from the ruler of the synagogue's *house* who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?" ³⁶ As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not be afraid; only believe." ³⁷ And He permitted no one to follow Him except Peter, James, and John the brother of James. ³⁸ Then He came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and saw a tumult and those who wept and wailed loudly. ³⁹ When He came in, He said to them, "Why make this commotion and weep? The child is not dead, but sleeping." ⁴⁰ And they ridiculed Him. But when He had put them all outside, He took the father and the mother of the child, and those *who were* with Him, and entered where the child was lying. ⁴¹ Then He took the child by the hand, and said to her, "Talitha, cumi," which is translated, "Little girl, I say to you, arise." ⁴² Immediately the girl arose and walked, for she was twelve years *of age*. And they were overcome with great amazement. ⁴³ But He commanded them strictly that no one should know it, and said that *something* should be given her to eat.

3

Jairus' Plea

Mark 5:21-22

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.

After delivering the man with a legion of unclean spirits, Jesus and His disciples cross the Sea of Galilee and again enter Israel. A large multitude of people had gathered and were waiting for Jesus' return. This passage will focus on 2 individuals in this crowd. The first is Jairus. He was a respected leader and one of the rulers in the synagogue. In his position, he would have had dealings with the Pharisees and would have known their hatred for Jesus. Yet this man's need brought him to the feet of Jesus.

4

Jairus' Plea

Mark 5:22-24

And behold, one of the rulers of the synagogue came, Jairus by name. And when he saw Him, he fell at His feet²³ 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.

Jairus, risking his standing with the Pharisees and his religious standing in the community, came and fell at the feet (an act of worship) of Jesus. Gripped with grief and yet emboldened by faith, Jairus sought Jesus in the midst of the crowd. He begged Jesus to come and lay His hands on His daughter because she was at the point of death. The phrasing of his plea indicates a belief that Jesus was able to heal her so she could live.

How grateful he must have been when Jesus listened to his request and agreed to go with him to his home.

5

Jairus' Plea

Mark 5:24

So *Jesus* went with him, and a great multitude followed Him and thronged Him.

The accessibility of Jesus is seen, not only in His willingness to intermingle with the crowds but also in His availability to go with one desperate man who needed Him. Because He was accessible, He could be contacted, spoken to, and reached in a moment of need; because He was available, He was willing to give of Himself to meet the need of this man. Though a large crowd was following Him and pressing in on Him, Jesus began the journey through the streets of Capernaum to Jairus's house.

Despite the many demands He faced in His earthly ministry, the Creator walked with people and made Himself accessible to them. The King of creation, the Lord of hosts, and the Ruler of all was not too busy to graciously care for those in need. The Gospels are filled with the accounts of His merciful availability to individuals.

6

A Desperate Woman's Interruption

Mark 5:25-26

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.

Jairus must have tried to get Jesus to hurry through the crushing crowd to get Jesus to his daughter. Their journey was interrupted by a woman who was the opposite of Jairus.

This unnamed woman had suffered with a “flow of blood” for twelve years. She had tried everything and had suffered much at the hands of many physicians. In her desperation, she had spent all that she had and had only grown worse. Her condition rendered her “ceremonially” unclean cutting her off from the synagogue, the temple, her community, and from the human perspective, from God Himself.

7

A Desperate Woman's Interruption

Mark 5:27-29

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.

Like Jairus, she had exhausted all human hope and saw Jesus as the only answer to her distress. We get a glimpse into the woman's mindset. She chose not to confront Jesus directly. It appears that after 12 years she came to see herself as unclean and unworthy of directly approaching Jesus. She created a plan. Her faith in Jesus was so strong, that she felt that if she could just touch the edge of his garment she could be healed. Seeing Jesus, she put her plan into action. She came from behind Him and touched His garment and was instantly healed.

8

A Desperate Woman's Interruption

Mark 5:30-32

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.

As Deity, Jesus knew all things. He also realized that power had gone out of Him. I believe He knew who it was but was giving her a chance to come forward. We see this after man's sin in the Garden of Eden. He had healed her body, and now He wanted to heal her soul. The disciples thought it strange that He asked who touched Him. They were in the middle of a crowd seeking Jesus' attention. He was being bumped by many people, but Jesus was not looking at the crowd, but for an individual who had exercised faith in reaching out to Him.

9

A Desperate Woman's Interruption

Mark 5:33-34

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."

The woman recognizing the power of Jesus stepped out of the crowd and fell down and worshipped Him. She told the whole story, heard by the disciples and recorded for us. Notice that Jesus was not angry but moved with compassion for her. She who was unclean, an outcast, poor, and despised was made clean and called a daughter. Jesus stated that it was her faith that made her well.

We too are made whole as we come to Jesus in faith for forgiveness and restoration. We, like this woman, can go in peace being healed of our affliction (scourge or whipped).

10

A Discouraging Event

Mark 5:35-36

While He was still speaking, *some* came from the ruler of the synagogue's *house* who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?" ³⁶ As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not be afraid; only believe."

Put yourself in Jairus' position. Your daughter is sick, you have found Jesus but is interrupted by woman who by human standards is unclean but in desperate need of healing. As Jesus is talking to the woman, Jairus receives word that his daughter has died. He must have been devastated. Jesus hearing the news, turns to him and states, "Do not be afraid; only believe." Luke 8:50 records that Jesus reassures Jairus stating "she will be made well".

11

Death Overcome

Mark 5:37-38

And He permitted no one to follow Him except Peter, James, and John the brother of James. ³⁸ Then He came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and saw a tumult and those who wept and wailed loudly.

Coming to the house, Jesus permitted only Peter, James, and John to enter with Him. The house was chaotic. In Jesus' day, funerals were filled with wailing (an outward expression on the inward grief). It was expected to have paid mourners and even musicians playing in dissonance. Enough time had passed that the professional mourners had arrived.

12

Death Overcome

Mark 5:39-40

And When He came in, He said to them, "Why make this commotion and weep? The child is not dead, but sleeping." ⁴⁰ And they ridiculed Him. But when He had put them all outside, He took the father and the mother of the child, and those *who were* with Him, and entered where the child was lying.

Jesus addressed those in the house, "**Why make this commotion and weep? The child is not dead, but sleeping.**" The mourners knew she was dead but missed the point that this was not going to be her permanent state. Their unbelief caused them to ridicule Jesus. However, like a sleeping child, Jesus was about to awaken her.

The Bible uses the term "sleep" to refer to the temporariness of death. The body may die, but the soul does not. As believers, we are to look forward to the resurrection.

Jesus takes the girl's parents and His companions and enters in to where the child is lying.

13

Death Overcome

Mark 5:41-42

Then He took the child by the hand, and said to her, "Talitha, cumi," which is translated, "Little girl, I say to you, arise." ⁴² Immediately the girl arose and walked, for she was twelve years *of age*. And they were overcome with great amazement.

Notice the tenderness of Jesus' compassion. After removing the commotion, He takes the girl by the hand and tells her to arise. The name that Jesus called her can be translated "**little lamb**" showing His tenderness. Immediately the girl got up, her life restored, and began walking around the room.

The response of those in the room was that "**they were overcome with great amazement.**"

14

Death Overcome

Mark 5:43

But He commanded them strictly that no one should know it, and said that *something* should be given her to eat.

Though Jesus had restored life to the girl's body, she still needed food, so He commanded for them to give her something to eat.

It seems strange that Jesus "**commanded them strictly that no one should know**" what He had done. There are several possible reasons for this. The crowds looking for "a miracle" were already large and hindering Jesus' teaching ministry. When Jesus restored Lazarus, the religious leaders sought not only to kill Jesus, but Lazarus also (John 12:10). Because of Jairus relationship with the Pharisees, perhaps her life would be endangered. The third reason is that Jesus' ministry was not completed. Ultimately, it was His own victory over sin and death that enabled Him not only to give temporary life to a dead girl but to offer eternal life to all those who believe in Him.

15

So What ...

These two stories stand in contrast with each other. Jairus was a respected man in the community, wealthy and tending to the religious affairs of the synagogue.

The woman who touched Jesus' garment was a poor outcast who was cut off from the religious community of the synagogue. Yet each found healing and restoration by believing that Jesus was able to heal their situation.

These events are in Scripture that we may understand that Jesus is the one who is able to heal disease, but that He has authority over death itself (sin's curse).

This passage shows Jesus' tender compassion to those under the curse of sin and death. We too are suffering from a terminal disease called death, but Jesus is willing to take us by the hand, calling us His "little lambs" and give us eternal life.

This is possible when one places their faith in Jesus for Who He is, and accepting the salvation provided to us through the cross and resurrection. Have you accepted His gift of salvation?

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