

## Mark 5:21–43 — Jesus Raises a Dead Girl and Heals a Sick Woman

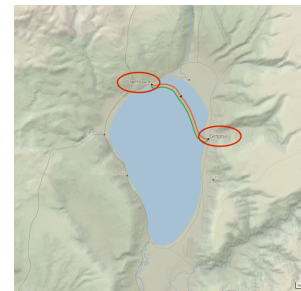
February 24, 2019

As a church, we are studying through the Gospel of Mark. This morning, we are in Mark 5:21-43. Take out your notes. We have an interesting passage to study. It is another Markan sandwich. Earlier in this Gospel, we saw Mark sometimes starts a story, stops it halfway to give us another story, then he returns to the first story and finishes it. He puts the stories together like a sandwich. The two stories bundle together to make one big point. That is what we have this morning. It is the story of a dead girl and the story of a sick woman.

I usually read the text with you before we study it, but in the interest of time, we will let the story unfold itself as we move through it verse by verse. We will read the first verse to give us the context for the story, then dive into the rest of our study.

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. Mark 5:21 (ESV)

In previous weeks, we learned Jesus was teaching and healing in the city of Capernaum on the Sea of Galilee. After a long day of teaching and healing, in the evening hours, Jesus and the apostles, sailed across the Sea of Galilee to the eastern side of the lake, the Gentile side. When they landed on shore they were greeted by the neighbor from hell, a demon-possessed maniac. He was not demon possessed in a normal way. He was demon possessed in an extraordinary way. He didn't have just one demon in him. He had a legion of demons in him. He had 5,000-



6,000 demons in him at once. As a result, he had supernatural levels of strength and could break chains. This man was impossible to restrain. He terrorized the town. But at the mere sight of Jesus, the man who couldn't be restrained cowered in fear at the feet of Jesus. With just a word, Jesus cast all the demons out of this man and restored his sanity and his life.

Later that morning, the people of that region asked Jesus to leave. Why did they ask him to leave? He cast the demons out of the man into a herd of 2,000 pigs that dove off a cliff and drowned in the lake. If healing one nut case in town cost a herd of 2,000 pigs, imagine what would happen if Jesus started healing other nut cases in town. That is why they asked Jesus to leave. Jesus obliged. Jesus and his apostles sailed the six miles across the lake to the western side and returned to Capernaum, where they were the day before. When they arrived, a large crowd gathered around Jesus. Jesus was a celebrity. People wanted to be with him all the time. What was it about Jesus that made him so popular? Was it his amazing personality? Was it his dashing good looks? Was it his money? None of these things is why people wanted to be around Jesus. Everyone wanted to be around Jesus because of his ability to heal. Remember, this is the ancient world. There were no hospitals. There was no effective medical care. There were no antibiotics. Infection was rampant. Many people were suffering. Jesus offered a great medical plan. He provided instant and complete healing for free. The Bible tells us Jesus healed everyone in a split second. There was no need to take medicine or prolong suffering. Jesus gave instant, complete, and total healing. We wish he was still doing that today. When

Jesus returned to the shore of Capernaum, there were 10,000 or more people waiting for him, many wanting to be healed by him.

In the midst of that crowd, there were two particular people looking for healing. One was rich; the other was poor. One was respected in society; the other was rejected by society. One was honored in the community; the other was shamed in the community. One led the local synagogues; the other was banned from the local synagogue. One had a 12-year-old girl that was dying. The other was a middle-aged woman that spent the last 12 years as the walking dead because of her suffering. Their stories were similar, but in many ways they were different. What brought them together was they were both beyond hope, so in faith and desperation, they turned to Jesus in their times of need. Let's meet them.

### **Jairus was a respected man with a dying daughter.**

**Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, and seeing him, he fell at his feet Mark 5:22 (ESV)**

A ruler of the synagogue came to Jesus. His name was Jairus. Since he was a synagogue ruler, that means he was connected to the religious establishment, the Pharisees and Sadducees. Earlier in Mark, we learned the Pharisees and Sadducees had already decided against Jesus and were plotting his death. Jairus was part of this group, but he broke rank with the rest of the religious elite and came to Jesus, begging him on his knees.

Jairus was described as a ruler of the synagogue. What does that mean? In each synagogue there was a man or a group of men who acted as caretakers or overseers of the synagogue. They were not usually the teachers in the

synagogues. They were the ones who cared for the scrolls, maintained the facility, and organized the synagogue school. They had oversight responsibility for the readers, prayers, and teachers in the synagogue. Most synagogues had only one ruler, but Acts 13:15 tells us sometimes there was more than one ruler in a synagogue. Synagogue rulers were also elders in the synagogue. This was an important position because there were only three to seven elders in a synagogue. Synagogue rulers were elected by the people and considered to be some of the most respected men in the community.

This man, whose name was Jairus, was one of the most respected men in Capernaum. He was the epitome of the Capernaum religious establishment.

What did Jairus know about Jesus? I am sure he knew a lot. Earlier in Mark, we learned the apostle Peter's house was just a two-minute walk from the synagogue. Jairus would have heard of Jesus healing Peter's mother-in-law. Jairus would have heard about Jesus healing the paralytic that came through Peter's roof. Jairus would have heard of the countless other people that came to Peter's house from the community.

Jairus wouldn't have just heard about Jesus' healings, but most likely he witnessed them firsthand. Jairus was probably in the synagogue when Jesus healed the man with the crippled hand. Jairus was probably in the room when Jesus exposed an undercover demon working in a man that attended that synagogue. Jairus knew a lot about Jesus and his powers.

While Jairus knew a great deal about Jesus' ability to heal, he knew that going to Jesus to ask him for his daughter's healing would clearly leave him out-

of-step with the other religious leaders in his community. For that, he would pay a steep price.

Notice Jairus didn't just come to Jesus, he fell in desperation at the feet of Jesus. This posture shows his true humility and his desperation.

...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." Mark 5:23 (ESV)

Implore earnestly means to beg. This man, who was one of the most respected leaders in Capernaum, was on his knees begging Jesus to come and heal his daughter. The text says she was at the point of dying. She was going to die any moment. Jairus was a father that desperately loved his daughter. He was a father that would have gladly died in his daughter's place because he loved her so much deeply. He was facing the worst nightmare of his life. The daughter he loved was dying, and there was nothing he could do to save her. The parallel account in Luke 8:42 tells us this was his only child. Later we will learn she was 12 years old

No doubt, Jairus' daughter was sick for a while. He knew about Jesus' ability to heal because he saw Jesus heal others in his synagogue. He also knew that if he turned to Jesus for his daughter's healing, he would no doubt lose his job. The Pharisees and the Sadducees would slander his name and destroy his reputation. They would drive him out of his position. They would transform him from being one of the most respected men in the community to being driven out of the community.

As time passed, Jairus' daughter did not get better. As Jairus and his wife sat on the edge of their little girl's bed holding her hand, pleading with God for

her life, she grew weaker. Finally, when her breathing was labored, and all hope was gone, Jairus threw away his life, his prestige and reputation as he went for the “Hail Mary” of medical hope. He went to find Jesus and ask him to heal his daughter. Jairus no longer cared what it would cost him. He didn’t care if he lost everything and lived in poverty. If only his little girl could live and he could see her smile again, that would be enough.

Let me open the window of Jairus’ heart a little wider so you can understand his feelings. His daughter was 12. In Jewish society, that was the age she would be preparing for marriage. It was the age she would become an adult. It was the time when she would begin the process of becoming a wife and a mother. This was the most anticipated time in a young girl’s life, a time that was to be filled with joy. While the friends of Jairus’ family were preparing for weddings, he was preparing for the funeral of his only child from a slow and painful death. Can you put yourself in Jairus’ skin and feel the anguish in his heart as he watched his daughter die?

**And he went with him. And a great crowd followed him and thronged about him. Mark 5:24 (ESV)**

I love this. Jesus, in the sea of people all demanding his attention, had compassion for Jairus and his daughter. He began following Jairus through the crowd to his house to heal her. Can you imagine the exhilaration in Jairus’ heart? Can you imagine the ray of hope that dawned in his life? “Jesus is coming! Jesus is coming! Jesus is coming to my house to heal my daughter. There is hope. Make way for Jesus!”

The text says that as they were traveling, a great crowd thronged about Jesus. Thronged is not a word we commonly use. The Greek word behind it means to press together from every side. When Jesus left for Jairus' house, everyone kept pressing in to touch Jesus. Jesus was in a vice grip of human bodies all pressing into him, making progress towards Jairus' home almost impossible. This is like an ambulance leaving the scene of an accident but getting stuck in rush-hour highway traffic on its way to the hospital.

Can you imagine Jairus' heart? "Come on! Let's go! Get out of the way! My daughter is about to die! Jesus needs to get to my house. We need to hurry! This is our last chance. Make way! Jesus is coming through!"

That didn't work. Jairus and Jesus were stuck in human gridlock when time was of essence. Then Mark tells us our next story.

### **The bleeding woman was rejected with her long-term condition.**

**And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years...  
Mark 5:25 (ESV)**

This woman had a female bleeding problem. She had endured constant bleeding for a long time. She was bleeding for 12 years. That was for as many years as Jairus had his daughter. We don't know what caused her bleeding. All we know is she had a constant loss of blood. This was embarrassing. Worse than embarrassing, she suffered from anemia and the lethargy that happens when a woman loses too much blood. Remember, there was no little green iron supplement for her to take. This condition left her exhausted for a dozen years. At times, this kind of condition can be life-threatening when a woman loses too much blood.

There was more trouble with her condition than just embarrassment and weakness. In the Old Testament law, passages such as Leviticus 12:3-8 and Leviticus 15:19-27, tell us a woman was considered ceremonially unclean for seven days after she had a bleeding experience, so she was barred from the temple and from touching others for a week. This woman wasn't in a state of uncleanness for a week but for the last 12 years. She wasn't able to attend temple or synagogue worship for a dozen years. She didn't have the blessing of fellowship or worship. She was lonely, isolated, and an outcast. If she had a husband, she wasn't allowed to touch him, touch her children or touch her friends or she would make them unclean. Everyone avoided her like the plague. She couldn't have more children if she had any. She looked with jealousy on every other mother with a child tugging at her skirt. This woman was incredibly lonely. She was isolated and depressed. She was a complete outcast.

...and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. Mark 5:26 (ESV)

Not only was this woman unclean and therefore untouchable, but she had gone to doctors for healing and ended up suffering more from the cures the doctors tried than the disease. Mark said she went to many doctors. The parallel passage in Luke 8:43 says no one could heal her. It also tells us she was now reduced to poverty. She had spent all the money she had on doctors in desperate attempts to get better, but she only grew worse. She sold the car. She sold the house. She cashed in the retirement. She had nothing left. The doctors took all of it but provided no healing in return.



We may wonder why the doctors of the day couldn't cure her. We forget this was the ancient world. The doctors had no idea how to cure a woman with this type of bleeding condition. Ancient documents, such as the Talmud, describe various cures doctors were to try to overcome this condition. Some of these cures were toxic; others were silly. Rather than describe some of the toxic cures, I will share with you some of the sillier ones.

Carry the ashes of an ostrich egg in a linen bag in the summer and carry the ashes of an ostrich egg in a cotton bag in the winter to be cured of your bleeding. As you can tell, that didn't help. Carry barley corn found in donkey dung to be cured of your bleeding. All that did was contaminate you with germs, especially if you didn't go a good job washing off the kernel of barley corn. Drink wine mixed with onions. That one tastes so bad that I am sure it cured something, but it wasn't a perpetual menstrual bleeding. As you can see, none of these cures were very helpful.

In desperation, she heard reports of Jesus' healing power, and she believed them.

**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 5:27-28 (ESV)**

She had strong faith in Jesus' ability to cure her, but to avoid the shame of public embarrassment because of her condition, she snuck up to Jesus in the crowd. I imagine she had a hood over her face to be as incognito as possible, because everyone she touched in that crowd she would unwittingly make unclean. In the sea of humanity all reaching for Jesus, the crowds parted and she

saw the break she needed. She stretched her arm and reached through the crowd to touch Jesus' clothing in the epicenter of the crowd.

Luke 8:44 tells us she reached through the sea of people to touch the fringe of his garment. That was the tassel of his garment. In Numbers 15:37, we see the Jews were to put tassels on the corners of their jackets to mark them as belonging to God. You may remember that the Pharisees wanted to be a bunch of show-offs, so according to Matthew 23:5, they made their tassels extra long to appear more godly than everyone else. That wasn't Jesus. Jesus, like the rest of the Jews, had normal tassels on the corners of his clothing. This woman said in her heart that if she could just grab one of the pieces of string that was on the corner of Jesus jacket, that would be enough of a touch to heal her.

Touching Jesus and being healed was not superstition on her part. She knew everyone that touched Jesus was instantly and completely healed. In Mark 3:10, we learned all who touched Jesus were instantly and completely healed. We will also see in Mark 6:56, that all who touched Jesus were instantly and completely healed. She was confident that if she could touch nothing more than a piece of string from Jesus' jacket, that would be enough of a touch for her to be healed. In that gridlock of human chaos, she reached her arm through the bodies, and briefly, for a moment held a piece of string connected to Jesus' clothes, then she let it go. That is all the touch she made. Let's see what happened.

**And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Mark 5:29 (ESV)**

As soon as she touched the tassel, instantly, 12 years of suffering stopped. She was healed. Jesus re-created her reproductive system. It says she was healed of her disease. The word for disease doesn't just mean sickness. It is a word used to describe suffering and torment. It is the same word used to describe the pain Jesus experienced in his whipping before he went to the cross. That is what her bleeding was like. For the last 12 years she endured constant physical and societal agony. All of that changed the moment she held a piece of string from Jesus' jacket.

And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone out from him, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my garments?" And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, 'Who touched me?'" And he looked around to see who had done it. Mark 5:30–32 (ESV)

Can you picture this? In this crowd of people where everybody was pressing in to Jesus and touching him, Jesus stopped and said, "Who touched me?" I love the way his disciples react. They said, "You see the crowds pressing into you and yet you ask who touched me? Jesus. Everybody is touching you!"

This was not a casual question by Jesus. He was very serious about finding this woman. He stopped in the middle of the crowd and kept looking for her.

Incidentally, do you think Jesus had no idea who touched him? I think he knew who touched him. Earlier in Mark, Jesus knew the thoughts of the Pharisees. If Jesus knows what people are thinking, I am sure he knew who touched him. Why was Jesus doing this? He was trying to draw this woman out. The woman who was an outcast and who wanted to be hidden because of her

sickness, the woman who wanted to be so low profile that she didn't even want Jesus to feel her touching him, was being exposed.

Why was Jesus doing this? I think that Jesus didn't just want to heal her physically, but he loved her so much that he wanted to also heal her socially and restore her respect in society. Jesus needed to talk with her and publicly affirm her to do that.

We don't know how long Jesus searched the crowds asking, "Who touched me?" It may have been a long time. Jesus wasn't letting this woman slip away.

**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. Mark 5:33 (ESV)**

Finally, this woman could no longer remain anonymous. She came in fear and trembling and fell before Jesus. What kind of fear was this? Everyone for the last 12 years of her life had rejected her and despised her. She was afraid of the way Jesus might treat her. Would she despise her like everyone else?

It says that in trembling and fear she fell down before him and told him the whole truth. There is a little humor here. Guys, have you ever felt like a woman can get emotional and talk too much? That is exactly what happened to this woman in this moment. She came before Jesus, and filled with joy for being healed and fear of Jesus exposing her, she couldn't stop talking. She recounted year of suffering intersperses with overflowing gratitude for her healing. She didn't trim any details. The whole time, like a good doctor that gives his full attention to a patient, Jesus listened to her story attentively with a heart of compassion.

Remember what was happening in the background with Jairus and his daughter who was knocking on death's door. Can you imagine how Jairus felt as this nameless and despised woman droned on and on, lengthening her life story as Jesus patiently listened?

In a hospital, what Jesus did would be considered malpractice. If you have two patients, one in an acute life-threatening condition and the other in a chronic long-term condition, you wouldn't give your attention to the patient with the chronic long-term condition. Then, after you helped him, you wouldn't sit and listen to his life story while another patient was dying in the next room! That is what Jesus did!

Finally, after this woman was done with her life story, Jesus said these words to her.

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)

This woman began as an outcast. She was afraid of what people thought of her. She was afraid of what Jesus thought of her. Jesus loved her. Jesus healed her. Jesus restored her reputation publicly. Jesus patiently listened to her. Then Jesus called her a daughter. This is the only time Jesus called a woman "daughter." It is a term of endearment. It is the way you describe someone in your own family that you love. For years, nobody loved her. Nobody accepted her. Nobody wanted her. Jesus loved her. Jesus cared about her. Jesus called her family.

Interestingly, he also told her that it wasn't the touch of his tassel that healed her. It was her faith in him that made her well. God's saving power was displayed because of her faith in him.

I am sure the entire time this was taking place, Jairus was in a panic. Remember they were in a very time-sensitive situation to save his daughter.

**Jairus was a respected man with a dead daughter.**

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?" Mark 5:35 (ESV)

The delay of the crowds and the woman proved deadly. Jesus wasted too much time. Jairus was the respected person. That woman was the rejected person. Jairus had a daughter that was dying. That woman wanted to be healed of a non-life-threatening inconvenience. How could Jesus be so unfocused as to let his only daughter die?

Can you imagine the way Jairus felt in that moment? The moment he heard his daughter had passed into eternity? Can you feel the way his heart melted in his chest as the tears began flowing down his cheeks?

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

Jesus heard the words of the messengers and he literally said, "Stop fearing. Keep believing." When Luke told us this story in his account, he added a little phrase to give us a little more detail of what Jesus said in that moment. "Stop fearing. Keep believing and she will be made well." Jesus said, "Remember that insignificant woman with the incurable bleeding disease? When she placed her faith and trust completely in me, I cured her of her incurable disease. Jairus, I am asking you to do the same. Place your complete faith and trust in me and

your daughter will be made well, even though she is dead.” In many ways, seeing the way this woman was cured of her incurable disease by her faith in Jesus gave Jairus the needed example for him to place his faith and trust in Jesus in an event more horrific situation, the death of his only child.

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)

I think the discussion Jesus had with the woman who grabbed his tassel took a lot longer than we realize. Jesus, Jairus and three of his disciples made their way through the crowd to Jairus' home. When Jesus and Jairus finally arrive, the funeral was already in full swing. The time for the knowledge of the girls' death to disseminate had taken place. Weepers, wailers and flute players had already assembled. Matthew 9:23 tells us the whole house was a noisy disarray of crying and chaos.

When we go to a funeral, etiquette reminds us to be quiet. People talk in hushed tones as everyone tries to avoid causing a disturbance. Funerals were very different in Jewish culture. There were three elements to a Jewish funeral.

First, when you came to a Jewish funeral, you expressed your grief loudly by crying and sobbing. Everybody did that. It was also required to tear your clothes. We go to a funeral in good clothes. They went to a funeral in junky clothes because they were required to tear their clothes as a sign of their sadness. There were even regulations in the Talmud to prescribe how this tearing was to be done. You were to tear your clothes while you were standing. If you were a relative of the deceased person, you were to tear your clothes over your

heart. You had to wear your torn clothing for the next 30 days as a sign of your mourning. The hole you tore was to be big enough to put a fist through.

Second, you hired professional cryers for the funeral. These were woman that developed crying into an art form. Like Hollywood stars, they could cry on command. They could will the tears to stream down their cheeks. Why were professional crying woman required? Men, doesn't a woman's crying tear your heart out of your chest? Isn't a woman's crying contagious? When you hear a woman crying, you can't help but start crying. The goal of the crying women was to make sure there wasn't a dry eye in the building.

Third, you hired flute players. They didn't play a tune. They played sad sounds that didn't fit together. Their flute sounds were as irritating as fingernails on a chalkboard.

Even the poorest of Israelites were required to hire at least two flute players and one crying woman for a funeral.

When Jesus and Jairus arrived, the crying women and flute players were in full swing. The guests arrived, and clothing was being torn. Jesus said something they never expected to hear.

**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)**

Jesus said, "Why are you crying? The girl is not dead. She is just asleep." Those words shocked the crowds. They offended the mourners. The professional criers knew death. They saw it every day. They cried at funerals every day. There was no question in their minds Jairus' little girl was dead, not just taking a nap.



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. Mark 5:40 (ESV)

After Jesus forced all of them out of the house, he took Jairus and Jairus' wife with Peter, James, and John and went into the little girl's room. There she was on the bed, lifeless, cold and blue.

Taking her by the hand he said to her, "Talitha cumi," which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise." Mark 5:41 (ESV)

What happened next was amazing. Only Mark preserved the original Aramaic words Jesus used. The reason he preserved the Aramaic is because Mark was writing his Gospel based on the firsthand, eyewitness account of Peter, who was in the room when this happened. Jesus would have gotten on his knees, reached over and took her little cold lifeless hand when he said to her Talitha cumi. Talitha means little lamb. That is a term of endearment you would say to a child in that day, much like we would speak to your own children and call them, "Honey." Cumi means time to get up. "Honey, time to get up," were the same words Jairus probably used every morning when he went into his daughter's room in the morning to get her up for school. "Honey, time to get up." But when Jesus said these words, they had power beyond imagination.

And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement. Mark 5:42 (ESV)

Instantly her spirit returned, she hopped out of bed like nothing happened and she just awoke from an afternoon nap. She began walking around the room grabbing her favorite dolls and playing with her favorite toys. She didn't even need to stretch. One minute she was cold, dead and lifeless. Jesus told her it

was time to get up and instantly she came to life, opened her eyes and began playing in her room.

The Bible says Jairus, his wife and the disciples were completely overwhelmed and amazed. Jesus instantly transformed their moment of greatest grief into indescribable joy. They hugged. They cried. The tears flowed, but they were not tears of grief but of inexplainable joy and gratitude to Jesus.

My friends, the most formidable enemy facing each one of us is death. To Jesus, death is as easy to conquer as waking someone from an afternoon nap. All he needs to do is tell us it is time to wake up and we will rise from the dead. That is the kind of power he possesses.

And he strictly charged them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat. Mark 5:43 (ESV)

Some people overspiritualize this last verse. I think it is more practical than it is theologically deep. Why did Jesus tell them to give her something to eat? Everyone was so busy celebrating her life, they forgot that she was hungry. She needed somebody to stop celebrating and give her a granola bar or a box of cheese crackers.

Jesus also told them not to tell anyone about this. Why did he say this? I think it was a practical escape plan. Jesus could barely get to Jairus' house because of the crowds. Imagine what would happen if people heard Jesus raised Jairus' daughter from the dead before Jesus and his disciples had a chance to leave? Obviously everyone would know she rose from the dead when she came out of the room, but Jesus and his disciples wanted a head start to beat the crowds.

## Applications

**Jesus has more than power to overcome death. He has compassion for our needs.** In previous weeks, we saw Jesus had total power over the forces of nature. He instantly calmed a storm. Last week, we saw Jesus has authority over a legion of demons. Today, we see Jesus has power over incurable disease and even over death. Notice Jesus' power is not raw, like a bolt of lightning ripping through the sky. Jesus' power was combined with incredible compassion for people in their times of need. Jesus didn't just heal the bleeding woman but he took the time to restore her socially. He took the time to hear her story. He spoke to her with tenderness and compassion, calling her a daughter when she had no family. When Jesus raised Jairus' daughter from the dead, he didn't do it impersonally from a distance, but he did it with the gentle touch of his hand and all the love and care of a father waking up his daughter on a Saturday morning before family breakfast. Jesus doesn't just have more than enough power to meet every challenge we face, but he has incredible compassion and care for us in our times of need. We can't miss that in this text.

**Faith in Christ unleashes the transforming power of Christ.** This is the message of the Markan sandwich. Mark put two stories together to make one point. The sick woman came to Jesus with faith that he could make her well when nobody else could make her well. She had confidence Jesus could cure her when no one else could. Jesus said it was her faith, not the touch of his tassel, that unleashed his power and made her well. In a similar way, when Jairus' daughter died, Jesus told Jairus to place his complete faith and trust in Jesus and his daughter would be made well, even if it meant raising her from the dead.

It was faith in Jesus that unleashed the miraculous power of Jesus in their lives. When we place our faith in Jesus, he unleashes his power in our lives as well.

The problem is, today, Jesus isn't healing everyone. Jesus is not promising to restore children from death back to life. The healing of an incurable disease and the raising of a young girl from death were specific ways Jesus unleashed his power in that time when people placed complete faith and trust in him. When we place our complete faith and trust in Jesus today, how does he release his amazing power in our lives?

The answer to that is found in latter parts of our Bible. For example, in Ephesians, we read this.

...and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places... Ephesians 1:19–20 (ESV)

The same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead is at work in the lives who place their faith in Jesus today. That power applies Christ's death for our sin as payment for our sin, freeing us from an eternity in the Lake of Fire we all deserve. That same power breaks the grip of sin in our lives (Romans 8:1-11). We no longer have to sin. We no longer desire to sin. Christ's amazing power literally makes us into new creations from the inside out (1 Corinthians 5:17).

My friends, the amazing power of Christ is not just something of the past. It is available today. When we place our complete faith and trust in Jesus, rather than just conquering the result of sin, like sickness and death, his power goes to the core problem of sin itself. When we place our complete faith and trust in him,

he pays for our sin. He breaks the power of sin in our lives. He makes us into completely new people from the inside out.

My friends, the amazing power of Jesus that we see in Mark 5 is still at work today to save us from sin and change our lives when we place our faith and trust in him today.



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