**Eyes on Jesus**

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**Don’t Be Afraid, Just Believe**

We last left off where Jesus healed the demoniac in the Gadarenes. The man asked to come along with Jesus, but Jesus responded, *“Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.”*

**Mark 5:21-43**

**21**When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. **22**Then one of the synagogue leaders, named *Jairus*, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. **23**He pleaded earnestly with him, “My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.” **24**So Jesus went with him.

[comment]

A large crowd followed and pressed around him. **25**And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. **26**She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. **27**When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, **28**because she thought, “If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.” **29**Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

**30**At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched my clothes?”

**31**“You see the people crowding against you,” his disciples answered, “and yet you can ask, ‘Who touched me?’ ”

[comment]

**32**But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. **33**Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. **34**He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.”

**35**While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. “Your daughter is dead,” they said. “Why bother the teacher anymore?”

**36**Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him,*“Don’t be afraid; just believe.”*

[comment]

**37**He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. **38**When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, with people *crying and wailing* loudly. **39**He went in and said to them, “Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep.” **40***But they laughed at him.*

After he put them all out, he took the child’s father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. **41**He took her by the hand and said to her, *“Talitha koum!”* (which means “Little girl, I say to you, get up!”). **42**Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was *twelve* years old). At this they were completely astonished. **43**He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.

Today’s Highlights:

Jesus had just come back from a round-trip journey to the East side of Galilee that *started* with;

* an all-day Parable Teaching Seminar from a boat on the shore of Galilee,
* then included him calming a raging storm at sea,
* then casting out a legion of demons in Gerasene,
* and now is confronted with a synagogue leader whose daughter is dying and a woman with a 12-year incurable condition.

First let’s look at Jairus.

A “synagogue leader” presumably in Capernaum (Jesus new hometown). If so, Jesus would certainly have known Jairus (the synagogue is very close to the house where Jesus was staying), but it is not clear whether Jairus was a *believer*.

Either way, Jairus was desperate! His desperation brought him to a place where he put his faith in Jesus. He fell at Jesus feet in a public act of humility and surrender and cried out *““My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.”*

It’s interesting to note that his *“Little Daughter”* was 12 years old. (Same age as my “little daughters), She was not a toddler or a small child, she was at the age that she would likely be making her Bat-Mitzvah. (*Daughter of the Commandment*) this is when she is recognized as ‘coming of age’ as a woman and following the commandments.

Jesus saw *three things* in Jairus; *Humility, Faith and a Father’s Love*

Humility

– although he was a public leader, he humbled himself and begged on his knees before Jesus.

Faith

– He believed in no uncertain terms that if Jesus merely put His hands on his daughter, she would be healed.

A Father’s Love

– He was willing to go to great lengths to bring healing to his “little girl”. You can imagine the tears of heartbreak at the very thought of losing his precious little girl whom he loved so very much. Even though she was nearly a young woman, he still referred to her as “Little Daughter” showing the tender love that he held for her in his heart.

Jesus was so moved by this that he responded immediately.

**V. 24** “So Jesus went with him. A large crowd followed and pressed around him”

Remember Jesus is extremely popular here in Northern Galilee at this time. He had many issues with crowd control as he traveled this region. The crowds were pressing against him as they walked toward Jairus’ house.

In the crowd was the Woman with the issue of blood.

This woman had been stricken with issue for twelve years. She had spent all her money on doctors over this time and instead of getting better, she got worse.

She was desperate. Her desperation showed us three things; *Humility, Faith and Love*

**Humility**

 – She may have been a young well-off healthy woman at one time, but now she is in humble circumstances. She has spent all her money, is alone (no husband or family mentioned) and she has a condition that will most likely alienate her and kill her if it is not healed. After she *was* healed, she went before Jesus and fell at his feet.

**Faith**

– Her very thoughts show tremendous faith,

V .28 “she thought, “If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.”

We see that she believed so much in the power of God that was in Jesus, that she knew that just needed to touch “his clothes” (the hem of his garment).

**A Father’s Love**

- This time, we see a father’s love in a different way. There is no father of the woman pleading for her to be healed, in fact no one pleaded for her healing, Jesus didn’t even know initially who it was that was healed. She is healed by the power of God the Father manifest in Jesus, as an act of the Father’s love toward her. When Jesus asked who it was that was healed by the power within Him, she fell at his feet and confessed what she did.

His response was unique. He never responded to anyone else this way before or after.

**V.34 “**He said to her, “*Daughter*, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.”

He did not call her by her name, or even call her woman. He did not rebuke her for not asking him to heal her in the proper way, she didn’t ask, she was just healed.

*He called her daughter because he saw that she was healed by God, her heavenly father, who loves her in the same way Jairus loves his “Little Girl”.*

***Matt 6:8***“...for your *Father* knows exactly what you need even before you ask him!”

Bad news during the delay

 **V. 35** “While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. “Your daughter is dead,” they said. “Why bother the teacher anymore?”

You can imagine, the heartbreak of Jairus as he received this news. He had been in a desperate rush to get Jesus to the bedside of his daughter. All the while crowds were flocking him, a woman interrupted him and Jesus himself felt it was important to delay the short trip even longer but wanting to find out who this woman was and speak to her. All the while the daughter was rapidly dying and finally DID die during Jesus’ delay.

Jesus was unphased by the news of her death. He was not afraid of death and may even have delayed the trip to the house to show God’s glory in a greater way (Like he did with his own friend Lazarus in John 11, when he said;

 “This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God’s glory so that God’s Son may be glorified through it.” **…** **6**So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days”)

But he probably saw the sorrow, the anger and the fear in the eyes of Jairus and said these words to him (*the title of today’s message*):

***“Don’t be afraid; just believe.”***

Don’t be afraid, just believe! This was a simple, yet powerful message from Jesus to Jairus, and to us.

He asked Jairus to make a choice between fear and faith. The same choice that WE need to make as we face the most challenging circumstances in our lives.

We have a choice;

BE AFRAID – worry, anxiety, doubt and lack of faith.

or

BELIEVE – Trust in God’s goodness, power and authority over ALL circumstances.

My sense is that Jairus continued to *believe*, because they continued their journey just as they had before. He did not relent and lose heart, he continued to put His trust in Jesus.

LAMENTING TO LAUGHING

**V. 37** “He did not let anyone follow him except *Peter, James and John* the brother of James. **38**When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, with people *crying and wailing* loudly. **39**He went in and said to them, “Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep.” **40***But they laughed at him.”*

These people did NOT have the same faith as their synagogue leader. They went from crying because the girl was dead, to laughing at Jesus who said she was not.

Jesus used the phrase “only asleep”.

The word that he used here is katheudo (Kath-yoo-do).

There is another word that can mean *either* asleep or dead which is; “koi-may-o-may”, which is used throughout scripture, but This is not the word Jesus used here.

Why?

It could be that the healing took place before Jesus even met the girl, just like it did to the woman with the issue of blood.

When Jesus got there, he basically just woke her up.

**V.40-43 “**After he put them all out, he took the child’s father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. **41**He took her by the hand and said to her, *“Talitha koum!”* (which means “Little girl, I say to you, get up!”). **42**Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was *twelve* years old). At this they were completely astonished. **43**He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.”

This story is found in the other synoptic gospels, but only here in Mark does Jesus use the words “*Talitha koum”.*

Why?

Mark records this as being said in Aramaic, which was the common spoken language of the region (They spoke Hebrew in the synagogues and temple, Greek in writings and letters, but Aramaic when speaking to people from other regions).

Jesus calls her “Talitha” which colloquially means, “little lamb”.

Jesus used this term to speak tenderly to this young lady.

In the same way that he referred to the woman he had just healed as “Daughter”, he wanted this little girl to know that she was like a “precious little lamb”. Once again showing that the loving-kindness they had received came straight from their Heavenly Father.

Although the people were all astonished, he told them not to spread the news of this because the authorities would be all over the synagogue if they did.

He did not do this for show, or as a public display of His power, it was simply a response to the desperate heart-cry of a loving father, pleading for his daughter’s life.

Jesus resonated with that deep love and acted accordingly.

And this is how he is with you and I in our desperation.

He knows our needs and is eager to help us, provide for us and even heal us.

Our part is to come to him in 3 ways:

**Humility**

 – Knowing that He is God and we are not. We don’t demand or expect things out of presumption, we go to him in prayer with humble and grateful hearts.

**Faith**

– Trust. We trust that he knows what’s best for us. We believe that his purposes will be fulfilled in our lives despite circumstances. We trust and believe that He is sovereign and can do all things, in His way and His timing.

**Know that he is our Father**

– When Jesus taught us to pray, he started the model prayer with the words “Our Father”. Often times when we face difficulties we look to others for help (friends, family members, Pastors, churches, the government, etc.) God wants us to rely on him, and come to him in faith.

We need to come to him with the same faith as Jairus and the woman who was healed in Capernaum.

Expectantly, but not presumptuously

Boldly, but not arrogantly

Confidently, but not pridefully

We are in a situation right now, where I cannot lay hands on, and pray for people. We cannot physically gather with our brothers and sisters and pray together.

We cannot meet many of the physical and material needs of our congregation at this time.

Does that mean that God cannot provide for, meet the needs of and heal us?

No!

I believe he wants to do all of those, but we simply must go to him and ask.

**Matt 7:11** “If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!”

I know it feels like many of us are suffering alone.

You are not alone.

God is with you in the secret places. We just need to go to Him and pray.

He wants to respond to your need and reward your faith.

Closing:

**Matt 6:6-8 “**But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who *is* in the secret *place;* and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. **7**And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen *do.* For they think that they will be heard for their many words.“Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.”

Your heavenly father loves you.

He wants to care for you and heal you.

He wants to meet you in the quiet places and hear the cry of your heart.

He wants to

provide for you, meet your needs of and heal you,

You may be tempted to doubt, or you may simply just be afraid.

He knows your fears, and he knows your doubts.

But Remember his words to you;

**“Don’t be afraid, Just Believe”**

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