

“A Desperate Man, A Desperate Woman”

Mark 5:21-34

INTRODUCTION. v.21

- Jesus traveled by boat back to the other side of the Sea of Galilee.
- From begging Jesus to go away (v.17) to begging Jesus to come (v.22-23).

A DESPERATE MAN. v.22-24

1. Jairus, one of the rulers of the synagogue. v.22

- Probably from the synagogue in Capernaum. Likely knew of Jesus and his miracles. Ref. Mark 1:21-34
- He fell at the feet of Jesus.

2. He begged Jesus to come heal his daughter. v.23

- His “little daughter” was dying. (She was twelve years old, ref. 5:42.)
- Luke (8:42) tells us she was his only child.
- Jairus implores Jesus to come and lay his hands on her so she would live. Ref. Mark 6:5; 7:32; 8:23, 25

3. Jesus went with him—along with a great crowd. v.24

- Jesus’ trip to heal Jairus’ daughter is interrupted. How much interruption is found in Jesus’ life!

A DESPERATE WOMAN. v.25-34

1. A desperate woman. v.25-26

- She had a chronic medical condition. **v.25**
-According to Levitical law and social customs, she was unclean. Lev. 15:25-33; 20:18
- She had been to many physicians. **v.26a**
- She had spent all that she had. **v.26b**
- Her condition was getting worse. **v.26c** Luke (a physician) tells us her condition was incurable (8:43).

2. The woman was healed by Jesus. v.27-29

- She had heard reports about Jesus, approached him from behind, and touched his clothes. **v.27-28**
- Immediately she experienced healing in her body. **v.29**
- This was an act of faith on her part. Ref. v.34

3. The woman was “seen” and publicly restored by Jesus. v.30-34

- In that moment, Jesus perceived that power had gone out from him. **v.30**
-Who touched my garments?
- Jesus was surrounded by a great crowd, but still sought the one who touched him. **v.31-32**
- The woman came to Jesus and confessed. **v.33** “told him the whole truth”

→ People with chronic pain (both physical and emotional) often feel shame and guilt.

- There is often a sense either of: “I should be over this by now” or “This must be my fault”
- Jesus restored her personally and publicly. **v.34**
-Daughter (!) connection with Jairus in v.23. As a father to a child.
-Your faith has made you well.
-Go in peace. (When is the last time she experienced peace?!)
-Be healed of your disease.

A WILLING SAVIOR

- 1. One was desperate for another (his daughter), the other was desperate for herself... Jesus was willing.**
- 2. One was prominent (Jairus), the other was poor and ostracized—Jesus was willing.**
- 3. Both needed His power and His pity—Jesus was willing.**
- 4. Both fell down before Him—Jesus was willing.**
- 5. Both came in faith—Jesus was willing.**

Thoughts from fellow Pilgrims...

“Again and again during his earthly ministry Jesus was interrupted; namely, in his speaking to a crowd (Mark 2:1 ff.), conversing with his disciples (Mark 8:31 ff.; 14:27 ff.; Luke 12:12 ff.), traveling (Mark 10:46 ff.), sleeping (Mark 4:38, 39), and praying (Mark 1:35 ff.). ...What we would call an ‘interruption’ is for him a springboard or take-off point for the utterance of a great saying or, as here, for the performance of a marvelous deed, revealing his power, wisdom, and love. What for us would have been a painful exigency is to him a golden opportunity.” Hendriksen, 204

Ecclesiasticus 38: 1-14*

Honor physicians for their services,
for the Lord created them;

² for their gift of healing comes from the Most High,
and they are rewarded by the king.

³ The skill of physicians makes them distinguished,
and in the presence of the great they are admired.

⁴ The Lord created medicines out of the earth,
and the sensible will not despise them.

⁵ Was not water made sweet with a tree
in order that its power might be known?

⁶ And he gave skill to human beings
that he might be glorified in his marvelous works.

⁷ By them the physician heals and takes away pain;

⁸ the pharmacist makes a mixture from them.

God's works will never be finished;
and from him health spreads over all the earth.

⁹ My child, when you are ill, do not delay,
but pray to the Lord, and he will heal you.

¹⁰ Give up your faults and direct your hands rightly,
and cleanse your heart from all sin.

¹¹ Offer a sweet-smelling sacrifice, and a memorial portion of choice flour,
and pour oil on your offering, as much as you can afford.

¹² Then give the physician his place, for the Lord created him;
do not let him leave you, for you need him.

¹³ There may come a time when recovery lies in the hands of physicians,

¹⁴ for they too pray to the Lord
that he will grant them success in diagnosis
and in healing, for the sake of preserving life.

*Ecclesiasticus is part of extra-Biblical literature (i.e., NOT part of the Bible). It fits in what we would call ‘wisdom literature’ (similar in style to Proverbs and Ecclesiastes), containing wisdom on a wide variety of topics. It was written in Hebrew sometime around 190-170 BC and translated into Greek in 132 BC. It was well-known and widely read in New Testament times, sometimes even being read in synagogues.

Psalm 103:10-13: He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

¹² as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

¹³ As a father shows compassion to his children,
so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.

Psalm 50:15: Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.

“Smooth seas never made a skilled sailor.” -English proverb