

Scripture: Mark 5:21-43

### Jesus Triumphs over our Hopelessness

Beloved in Christ, this past year we worked through this song book with the students of Hope Academy. It is called 'His Story, His Glory' and consists of 70 verses. There is this striking verse which goes like this:

Hear the final Adam crying, "Father, take this cup away!"

Hear the Son, Himself denying, "I will do Your will today."

**Adam left creation cursed, Christ his legacy reversed.**

God has given us His story that we might proclaim His glory

What does this have to do with our passage, Mark 5:21-43? Everything. "Adam left creation cursed". You see it right here: a hopeless woman struggling with the curse of bleeding for twelve years and the death of a twelve year old daughter of Jairus.

Christ however comes to conquer and reverse the curse on man and creation through the cross and resurrection and bring blessing. God said to Adam in the garden, "the day you eat of it you shall surely die" [Genesis 2:17]. In another garden, the garden of Gethsemane, we hear Christ the final Adam crying, "Father take this cup away!" On His way to the cross, hear the Son, Himself denying, "I will do Your will today."

Jesus is the hope to the hopeless! He expels the demons and transforms the demoniac into a missionary [5:1-20]. We saw that last time. Today we see how He heals the outcast woman and restores her to fellowship, and how He raises a dead girl to life.

Our purpose is that in whatever your circumstance, however hopeless it may seem to be, may you come to know that Jesus is the Hope who triumphs over hopelessness. We see

1. An unclean woman [vv.25-34]
2. A dead girl [vv.35-43].

1-An unclean woman [vv.25-34]

Jesus crossed over again by boat to the other side. Remember that He had healed the demon-possessed man. Those who witnessed the miracle pleaded with Jesus to depart. Now having crossed over, we are told, that "*a great multitude gathered to Him and He was by the sea*" [v.21].

Who comes walking toward Jesus? He was a head ruler of the synagogue, a man from a prominent family. His name was Jairus. He was a man of wealth and prestige. He was likely president of the board of elders and he was responsible for the worship services, finding preachers and supervising the property. He likely was from Capernaum and would have heard about Jesus.

But he always kept his distance from Jesus.

But now he is in great need: his twelve year old daughter was dying. She was his only child, an only daughter [Luke 8:42]. You know 12 years old girls – they love to run and play but also help mom in the kitchen preparing lunches. A lively girl.

Now her father is on his knees, begging Him much, 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”* [v. 23]. Nothing can be done for her. Yet you see a glimmer of faith. His faith was far from perfect. He thought Jesus had to be present in person in order to heal her.

But he still had faith. This is because Jesus drew Jairus. He uses this circumstance to bring Jairus to believe in Him. You already see Jesus’ power over unbelief. Jairus set his hope on Jesus! Jesus responds to his need and goes with him to his house.

But Jairus’ faith should not remain where it is. It needs to develop and grow. You see his faith being tested. How? In two ways [verses 24-25]. The crowds slowed Jesus down from going quickly to his house. We read that, *“a great multitude followed Him and thronged Him.”* That is; they are pressing upon Jesus. That slowed Him and Jairus down ‘like an ambulance in heavy traffic.’

And now another person in great need comes to Jesus, *“a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years.”* That would slow things down even more. Would Jesus get there on time before his daughter died?

The woman had gone to many doctors. None of them were able to do anything for her. She spent all her money on remedies. Nothing worked. She was without hope. Instead of getting better; she got worse. Moreover, she had more than a medical problem.

According to Leviticus 15:25-27, she was also ceremonially unclean. This means she passed her uncleanness to all who came in contact with her. Like a leper, she was isolated from society, barred from access to God in the temple and from fellowship with God’s congregation in worship! This for 12 years! Unless she is cleansed and healed, she is alienated from the presence of God. This was death to her. Her situation was completely hopeless.

We don’t know her name. Not only a prominent man but also this poor woman goes to Jesus. She also heard about Jesus and Jesus uses her hopelessness to draw her to Him. Unlike Jairus, she was afraid to come out into the open. She comes behind Him in the crowd and touches the garment of Jesus, for she said, *“If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well”* [v. 28]. And, *“immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction”* [v. 29].

Quietly, quickly, secretly. Why? She is embarrassed, but she also knows that she is doing something against the law by touching others and making them unclean. When Jesus looks around to see who touched her, the sense is *‘He kept on turning and looking around.’* And, with fear on the inside, and shaking on the outside, she confesses and tells the whole truth!

We know her whole story. Jesus wants her to go public with her faith and glorify Him!

So why does she think that touching Jesus’ clothes would bring her healing and cleansing anyway? It was more than a physical touch. It was a touch of faith! She not only touched Jesus. She also believed that Jesus would heal her. Therefore Jesus says in verse 34, *“Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction.”* He calls her “daughter”. What an endearing term. She is now a daughter in the kingdom, fully accepted by God through faith!

This woman heard about Jesus' ministry. She knew Jesus touched unclean people without becoming unclean Himself. In so doing, He cleansed those who were unclean. Witness the reversal of the curse in Christ. Uncleanliness does not spread to Him. Cleansing comes to the woman! It's all because He takes the uncleanliness on the cross and by paying the price, He brings cleansing! What power! What pity!

Application We can ask questions about this woman's faith. Did she think Jesus was not aware that she touched Him? Did she think there was something magical in touching His clothes? Perhaps. But her faith was *real* and Jesus honored her imperfect faith.

God still does the same thing today. Our faith is far from perfect. Sometimes we have wrong thinking; it has errors mixed in with it. But that should never stop you from coming to Jesus as you are! God does not require your faith to be perfect to come to Him. Come just as you are, broken, unclean, like this poor woman, truly trusting. Come to Jesus for the cleansing of your sin. As one song says, "Foul I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, else I die." He is the hope of the hopeless! *"For He [God] made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him"* [2 Corinthians 5:21]. The Bible also says, *"therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new"* [2 Corinthians 5:17]. IN this exchange on the cross, His life for ours, a great reversal occurs:: a new creation to all who believe!

But let us move on and return to the dying daughter of Jairus where we began and this brings us to our second point.

## 2- A dead girl [vv.35-43]

When is Jesus going to reach Jairus' house to lay His hand on his dying daughter? Slow moving crowds continue to press upon Jesus. And Jesus' question, "who touched Me?" puzzle His disciples. "You see the multitudes thronging You," they say. This caused further delay. Is He going to make it on time to Jairus' house?

We read in verse 35, *"While He was still speaking, some came from the ruler of the synagogue's house and said, 'Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?'"* Do they show their trust in Christ? No. As Jairus' friends saw it, all hope was gone. There was still hope while the girl was sick, but not any longer. His fun loving daughter, his only child, was dead.

It's not about their timing; but God's. We have to learn that also regarding circumstances in our lives or in the lives of our loved ones. At times, God, as with Jairus, brings us to the point when all seems hopeless. Then He works, revealing His glory in Christ! In times of hopelessness, there is one of two responses: to turn away from Jesus; not to trust and pray anymore ["don't bother Him anymore"] or continue to pray and trust.

Notice Jesus response to Jairus' friends in verse 36. He hears it but pays no attention to it. He ignores it. He says to the ruler of the synagogue: *"Don't be afraid; only believe."* Jesus doesn't say what He will do; but you trust Him! Believing is the answer to fear. Don't be anxious; don't be afraid; only believe firmly in the promises, pity and power of God in Christ.

Jesus is about to show that He reverses the power of death by raising the dead to life. Jesus is out to accomplish not only a healing, but full resurrection. All the healings we have heard about so far in Mark's gospel are pointers to the promise of the resurrection of the dead to life! Mark has been building all along from lesser healings to greater healings preparing us for this climax – Jairus' daughter whom He literally raises from the dead.

If we mope in our hopelessness without turning to Christ, we don't and won't see the rewards of God's blessing which is ours only by faith. Notice, Jesus permits no one to come into Jairus' home except Peter, James and John and the father and mother of the child. He also drives out those who are mourning and wailing. Why? They ridiculed Him, when Jesus said, "*Why make all this commotion and weep? The child is not dead, but sleeping*" [verse 39].

When Jesus says she is not dead, but sleeping, He is not saying that she was in a coma. Like sleep, death is temporary. What He is saying is that death does not have the final say. Not death, but life triumphs. Other places in the Bible also talk about believers who are asleep in Jesus [Acts 7:60; 1 Thessalonians 4:14].

Notice, Jesus takes the child by the hand. In Numbers 19:11, we read "*He who touches the dead body of anyone shall be unclean...*" In Jesus, all this changes. In Him, we are cleansed. In Him, life overcomes death. He takes her by the hand, saying in her language [Aramaic], "*Talitha, cumi*" which is translated, "*Little girl, I say to you, arise*" [verse 41]. See the reversal. Christ brings hope out of hopelessness. She walks and she eats. He restores her to table fellowship! Victory in Christ is followed by food!

This is the first resurrection in Mark's gospel. But it points ultimately to Christ and His resurrection for you. He died for you and was raised from the dead for you. You believe this, don't you? Without believing in Him, you have no hope. His resurrection from the dead is the great reversal – bringing us from hopelessness to hope! We preach the sure hope of the resurrection!

Our world today is filled with people like Jairus' friends – heralds of doom and messengers of despair. Hopelessness is their theme in art, in music, and in all of life. "*Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die*" [1 Corinthians 15:32]. But in the midst of the doomsayers, hear the voice of Jesus: "*Do not be afraid; only believe*" [Mark 5:36]. Our hope is based on His promise. Jesus says, "*I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?*" [John 11:25-26]. Embrace His promise, by faith, and you too will live! Amen