



Having Faith in the Person of Jesus Mark 5:21-43

August 11, 2019
Pastor Trevor Cooper

Thanks for joining us today at First Baptist Church as we continue to study the Life of Christ through the gospel of Mark. Last week, we saw a man who was controlled by demons as an empty, lost vessel; but now is ready to go on mission to evangelize with the message of salvation as he goes home because He is now controlled by the Holy Spirit of God. The question for us all today, "Is God in control of your life?" Today, we read in the scriptures as Jesus is on his way to heal a man's daughter, yet another woman gets Jesus' attention. So many times, we read how God seeks us out and intervenes in our lives especially when it comes to salvation. However, there are a few instances where we see people seeking Jesus out and He answers them.

*"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. 22 Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, and seeing him, he fell at his feet 23 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." 24 And he went with him. And a great crowd followed him and thronged about him. 25 And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, 26 and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. 27 She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. 28 For she said, "If I touch even his garments, I will be made well." 29 And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. 30 And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone out from him, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my garments?" 31 And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, 'Who touched me?'" 32 And he looked around to see who had done it. 33 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. 34 And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace and be healed of your disease." **Mark 5:21-34***

Jesus and the disciples returned to the Northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee. Here Jesus is met with a much larger crowd than before. People are gathering and a ruler of the synagogue named Jairus who was just a layman, approaches Jesus with a task.

Jairus had responsibilities as a ruler to take care of synagogue affairs like the upkeep of the building, arranging the services and the choice of Torah readings. This man Jairus was probably there in the synagogue when Jesus taught at times. There was also a good chance that Jairus was an onlooker the day Jesus healed the paralytic in chapter 2. Therefore, Jairus ran to the only person who could help in such a difficult time. He ran to Jesus!

On the way to see Jairus' daughter, a woman approached Jesus in hope to be physically healed. This woman's condition was a chronic internal hemorrhage, perhaps from a tumor or other disease. It was not only physically debilitating, but it disqualified her from marriage as well as religious life in general according to **Leviticus 15:25** which states *"If a woman has a discharge of blood for many days, not at the time of her menstrual impurity, or if she has a discharge beyond the time of her impurity, all the days of the discharge she shall continue in uncleanness. As in the days of her impurity, she shall be unclean."* God is passionate about the purity of His people; thus, this woman was in need of help. This woman desired to be clean and healed from her condition by many other physicians; she needed a Great Physician.

Having FAITH in the PERSON of Jesus FINDS the POWER of Jesus. This reminds me of another verse in **Matthew 7:7** which says, *"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you"* In verses 28-35, the woman's faith in Jesus' healing powers was so great that she believed that even indirect contact with Him through His garments would be enough to produce a cure. The touch of faith is felt by Jesus, even though in such a dense crowd many people were touching Him. Christ's power proceeded from Him under the conscious control of His sovereign will. When Jesus asked this question, "Who touched My clothes?" it was not out of ignorance but so He might draw the woman out of the crowd & all her to praise God for what had happened. Did this woman truly know what would happen if she were to touch Jesus? Did she really believe act of touching, the garment or even the attempt to get close to Jesus would heal her and bless her? With great faith she did believe it, thus it reads this phrase "power had gone out from him" which occurs only here. Often, we put more emphasis on the methods of blessing or means to the blessing instead of the actual source of blessing, which is the man Jesus! Sometimes we may say, "Where is my blessing?" when we've tried or made an attempt to get close to God. "I went to church this week, prayed this week, read my bible, met up with my girls or my guys for fellowship but I feel like nothing happened. Our methods and means to know God is not the same as truly knowing God personally. We cannot have a genuine relationship with God through others vicariously or even the blessings of others. **Hebrews 6:4-6** sheds light on this particular issue stating *"For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, 5 and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6 and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt."*

As this woman sought out Jesus as the source of her healing, we must realize that **JESUS is the source of all BLESSING**. For a woman who has been a social outcast for many years,

the healing is only complete when Jesus has publicly identified her, commends her faith, and declares to all that she is healed and cleansed. The form of the Greek verb translated "has made you well," which can also be rendered "has made you whole," indicates that her healing was complete. Therefore, **the METHODS and MEANS of the Blessing may vary but the MAN is always the same.** Have you put genuine faith in the person of Jesus or just made an attempt and pretend only to experience a taste of what you could have but do not?

In verse 35 and 36, Jesus reminds Jairus that **Maintaining FAITH occurs when Confident OBEDIENCE is Practiced.** Jesus urges Jairus to maintain the faith he had initially demonstrated in coming to Jesus. In Jairus' helpless situation, faith was the only confident act left to do. This is why **Jesus says, "Do not FEAR, only BELIEVE."** So, **the MORE we obey, the CLOSER we get to God.** Notice in verse 37, not all the disciples are with Jesus at this time but Peter, James & John was in this close, inner circle that Jesus built around Himself. Here is where these men are intimately led by their master, the Son of God. The scene is of traditional women grieving over a loss. In the Middle Eastern cultures, wailing is a customary expression of grief, sometimes calling for professional mourners. However, as Jesus corrected their emotions stating that the daughter's condition is only temporary and is not dead. Everyone laughed and scorned Jesus indicating the people were convinced of the irreversible nature of the girl's death. Jesus shows up, show out but is not interested in a grand spectacle of healing. Rather, He is concerned for the suffering of the girl, the faith of her parents, and the ultimate goal of His mission. **Jesus' Goal was to Preach the GOSPEL, Perform MIRACLES and WAIT for a Proper Revealing.** Jesus gives physical healing and hope of social healing to these families who seemingly were incurable and helpless without the faith in the person of Jesus Christ.