

Written Copy: Mark 5:30-36 “Faith That Restores Eternally”

Proper 8: 6th Sunday @ Pentecost

Sunday, June 30th, 2024

Text: Mark 5:30-36

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." ³⁵ 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?" ³⁶ But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe."

The text's intent

To show the prayerful request of two people for healing, and Jesus' powerful compassionate response to both. Jairus, the important synagogue leader bows down before Jesus, believing He has the power to save his daughter from near death. The woman, suffering from an extremely painful bleeding disorder for 12 years, which would make her ritually unclean, and has spent her life savings on doctors only to see her condition worsen, believes that by simply by touching His robe, will be healed. And when she acts on this faith she is immediately and completely healed. Jesus purposefully encourages her to come forward, and she confesses all that happened. He addresses her with the loving title of "Daughter" and bids her go in peace as one saved and completely restored to health. Just then word comes that Jairus daughter has died. Jesus turns to him and says "Stop being afraid! Just believe!" He then takes only the three inner core disciples with Him to Jairus' house where He finds professional mourners creating a commotion. He points her current state is not the final state of temporal death yet, removes these unbelieving scoffers from the house, and taking the girl by the hand, with word of command in Aramaic, raises her from death to life. He strictly charges them to tell no one what has happened and tells them to feed her.

Focus Statement:

Jesus is the God made man who came among us to show how much He loves and cares for you. While He may not heal all our bodily afflictions and remove our trials, He has saved us from the worst affliction of eternal separation from Him caused by our sin. He suffered, died, and rose again to restore us as precious children of the Father. And what is not healed or removed now will be completely taken care of in the eternal life to come, where He will tell each of us to "arise" to live with Him freed of pain, trouble, and death forever. In the meantime, He lives with us granting us His peace.

Function Statement:

Why it's important to know:

When sickness and painful trials befall us we can fear God is not listening or caring, Our faith can be severely tested. We can feel others who are healed are more important than us, or that He can't help us.

What the hearer should do as a result:

Live out our lives in faith that Jesus has the power to heal and save us from all adversities, yet in this life some will not be removed. Yet He still loves us, walks with us, uses affliction and loss to keep us in a repentant faith relationship with Him by which we live in His presence now, and will enjoy the paradise of eternal life to come free of all that has afflicted us in this life.

Subject Sentence: What Jesus doesn't heal now will be in eternity.

Introduction:

In our Gospel Lesson we have two amazing stories of Jesus miraculously healing and restoring two different ladies. Either one of these would be a worthy text to focus a sermon on. But what I would like to focus on today is two of the characters in this account, what they were going through, and what Jesus came to do for them. And in this to see what He has to say for us here today as well.

Jairus

The first is Jairus. He is one of the rulers of the local synagogue, meaning he functions in an administrative capacity. He is in charge of supervising the worship done there, arranging for readers of the Torah every Sabbath, as well as finding and deciding who would speak the commentary on the passage read. We don't know which synagogue this is, the Gospel account is not clear as to what city He and His disciples arrive at. But there's a good chance it is Capernaum which has become his home base of operation. And it makes me wonder if Jairus isn't the ruler of the synagogue where Jesus had recently healed a man with a withered hand on the Sabbath, enraging the local Pharisees. Because of this encounter where Jesus chastised them for their heartless focus on works of the law instead of serving the LORD God, and His previous commentary on how their focus on keeping the Sabbath did not honor but instead dishonored the Father, He has made enemies of them, and they have begun plotting against Him.

These Pharisees would be men Jairus had to deal with. Yet there he is waiting on the shore, along with a crowd that had gathered to welcome Jesus back. He is waiting, most likely somewhat impatiently, for Jesus to come ashore. When Jesus does, this leader in the Jewish community falls down in submission and honor to Jesus, pleading with Him over and over, fervently imploring Him to come and heal his daughter. Here is a man who loves his 12-year-old daughter very much and is distraught because she is close to death. Jairus believes that this man has the power and authority of God to heal and restore his daughter. And even though Jesus has just arrived and climbed out of the boat, filled with the love and compassion of God Himself, He agrees and sets out with Jairus immediately.

Imagine how much brighter the future now looks for Jairus as he heads out with Jesus, believing that his daughter will not die but live. But that assurance would begin to fade soon when Jesus makes an unscheduled stop on the trip to Jairus house.

The Bleeding Woman

Enter now the woman who is suffering from the malady of a discharge of blood. While we are not told specifically, this more than likely is a discharge of blood from the womb that never completely stops. According to Jewish purity laws this would make her to be a woman who is declared unclean. She would not be allowed to be in a public gathering such as is following Jesus. Anyone who might knowingly touch her would also be declared to be unclean and would be required to bathe and themselves remain separate from everyone else until sundown. This would mean she is ostracized from the Jewish community, from friends, and from family. It would be a lonely existence for her without the support of friends and family. And she would most likely hide her condition out of embarrassment and shame. Not only would she be afflicted emotionally, but also her condition is described as being extremely painful. We are told she lived and suffered with this for 12 long years. And she had spent all the money she had on doctors who did nothing for her. Her condition only got worse and worse.

Out of desperation, but with remarkable faith in Jesus as one who could heal her, she pushes through the crowd in order to come up behind and touch Him. She must've heard about others who had been healed simply by touching His outer robe. And immediately upon touching it, she is completely healed! She knows this because not only has the flow of blood stopped, but the excruciating pain is gone.

Someone else knows that healing has happened, and that is Jesus. The text says He felt power go out from Him. But don't imagine that He got weak in the knees or swooned. It doesn't seem anyone else, including His disciples, realizes anything supernatural has occurred, except for this woman who, after 12 long years of suffering and pain, has been restored to health.

Jesus stops, and asks "Who touched me?" Now don't imagine that Jesus didn't know the answer to that. He is a man, but He is at the same time God the Son in human flesh. He has access to the knowledge of God Himself. He is purposefully drawing her out of the crowd to come forward before Him. He has a very special message to give her.

She does come forward and falls down at His feet. She does so trembling with fear. Part of this could be due to the supernatural healing that has taken place. When God works miraculously it can initially be a frightening thing. But an even greater fear for her would be centered on what she had just done. Rather than ask Jesus to heal her she had snuck up behind Him. She may feel that she stole this healing power from Him without His approval or consent. Plus, she, an unclean woman, had the audacity to reach out and touch a Rabbi, something that would earn her condemnation before any other man she might've touched. Perhaps she was afraid that Jesus, out of anger, might take His healing power back and she would once again be afflicted with that painful embarrassing condition for the rest of her life..

But that's not what will happen, not with this man, not with this Rabbi. This is the loving and caring God in the flesh who has come out of the greatest sacrificial and unconditional love to restore her. He makes her come forward not to punish her, but to finish the work of restoring her in her own heart and before the eyes of all the people. **Mark 5:34** ³⁴ **And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."** Jesus wants everyone to know that this woman is no longer to be considered unclean. She has been declared to be completely restored and made whole by God Himself. No longer does she need to live in the shadows avoiding people. She is to be welcomed back into society once again.

And there is a greater declaration for her and for all who are gathered around listening. He calls her "**Daughter**", because that is how the Heavenly Father looks upon her, as His precious and much loved child, His precious daughter. He then says "**your faith has made you well**". If Jesus was just talking about her being physically healed then there is another Greek word that would work better, and was used when we were first told her flow of blood had stopped. But the word Jesus used here that ESV translated as "**made you well**" is also often translated as "**saved**". Why could she now go in peace? Because her faith not only was the reason Jesus' healing came upon her, but her faith also saved her soul from sin, death, and eternal separation from God.

That faith was the trust she had in who she believed Jesus to be, who He was claiming to be, the Messiah from God who had come to seek and save the lost. She held this to be true so greatly that she chanced public embarrassment and condemnation. She acted on that faith in reaching out and touching His robe. And she was rewarded with so much more than physical healing, she received spiritual healing that would last the rest of her life and for eternity.

This was not just a chance thing. It was the will of God the Father as enacted by God the Son that He walk through this crowd, at this particular time, and that this woman be there at just the right moment. It was God the Father's will that she would receive His greatest gift of love, eternal salvation. She didn't receive healing behind Jesus back or without God's knowledge. Her faith in Him was the gift of the Holy Spirit who made her ready to receive the healing and restoration that Jesus had come to give. That's the kind of love He has for her, for me, and for you. He has brought you here today to receive that same faith, and to strengthen that faith in your heart and mind. He says to you: "**Son/Daughter, your faith in me has saved you from eternal death, has forgiven you of your many sins, and has opened the door to life with me now and eternal life to come. God in peace, healed of your sinful doubts and actions.**"

The Doubt and Fear of Jairus, and Jesus Gift of Renewal

Meanwhile there stands Jairus. He was probably emotionally moved with joy at this wonderful gift given to the woman. But that doesn't last long. **Mark 5:35** ³⁵ **While he (Jesus) was still speaking, there came from the ruler's house some who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?"**

Can you imagine how his heart just broke within him. He was somewhat impatiently waiting through this whole unscheduled stop with the woman. He knew that his daughter's time was quickly running out. And just when it appeared as if they could get going again, he is informed that it's too late. **"Jairus, your daughter is dead. Leave Jesus be. No need to annoy Him anymore. You need to come and make the arrangements."** His heart filled with fear and despair. He thinks **"We were so close; we were on the way! Why did this have to happen? Why couldn't God have kept her alive just a little longer?"**

As he is headed down into the black hole of despair, Jesus speaks some powerful, yet comforting words to him. **Mark 5:36** ³⁶ **But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe."** Coming from Jesus' lips they are not just platitudes or meaningless words intended to make him feel better. This is the declaration of the Lord God to him, words that have the power to make what they say the reality in his life.

These are words that Jesus addresses to us too. When the world with its troubles and afflictions strike, when illness strikes us, when brokenness and loss affects our peace and quality of life, when the word points out to us our sins, our doubts, all the ways we fail to follow God's will and commands and justly deserve punishment now and forever. When we start to head down the rabbit hole of despair, Jesus speaks these words to you and to me, **"Stop being afraid. Just believe. Believe that my life, death, and resurrection has taken all the wrath of God from off your shoulders. Believe that what is happening is not God being angry with you. Believe through the power of faith the Spirit I've sent into your heart and mind is here to walk with you, to lift up your head. He is here to use all the bad things that happen to you to keep you clinging to me in repentant faith, the faith that shows you your sin, and then shows you Me as your Savior."**

God is always in control. He could've arranged this whole afternoon differently. He could've got Jesus to the shore in time to heal the woman and then get to Jairus house before his daughter passed. Or He could've arranged for either one of these healings to have happened on a different day. But He wanted this to all play out for His own reasons. In doing so He gave and strengthened faith in these two individuals, and others who witnessed all that happened. And in His raising Jairus daughter from the dead, He foreshadowed the day to come for her, for Jairus, for the bleeding woman, for you, and for me too. That day when by His powerful words of command, He raises all believers from death to everlasting life.

Conclusion

The woman Jesus healed had to wait 12 long painful years for that time of healing to come. You and I have to wait at times to for our healing to come, for God to address the conflicts, the afflictions, the pain that is both physical and emotional. But just as the Spirit was already at work in the women, giving to her the faith that would be the conduit for her healing from Jesus, He is at work in you and me. He is at work in you pointing out your sin and then pointing you to your Savior. He is walking with you, guiding you and supporting you through all the painful moments. He is with you here in Word and Sacrament, and with the fellowship of believers that is the Church.

Jairus had to wait for Jesus to return from the other side of the lake. Then he had to wait while someone else slipped in front of him in line. At one point he thought all was lost, but that is never the case with Jesus. It's never too late for him to heal or save while we or our loved ones are still drawing breath. And even then, people have been known to come back from death. But even if that doesn't happen, through His gift of faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior, we have the promise of that coming day of complete healing and restoration.

That woman was healed for a time, but eventually she suffered death. Jairus daughter was raised from death only to die again. But by that gift of faith in Jesus, both will join us in eternal life. While our health and our loved ones may not be restored in this life, all will be completely restored on Resurrection Day and given to us when He brings us into the Garden Paradise that is the New Heaven and New Earth. That restoration will be forever. And it is yours in Christ Jesus. Amen.