

## Written Copy: Mark 5:33-36 “Stop Being Afraid-Just Believe

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday @ Pentecost-Proper 8

Sunday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### Text: Mark 5:33-36

<sup>33</sup> 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. <sup>34</sup> And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease." <sup>35</sup> 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?" <sup>36</sup> But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe."

### The text's intent

Jesus demonstrates the steadfast love, compassion, and healing power of God Almighty in the lives of two women. And He does it operating in an order and manner that man would not expect. Jairus comes first and in faith asks Him to come and heal His daughter. But on the way He stops when He feels healing power leave Him. Even though He didn't have to He pauses His journey, scanning the crowd, until the woman who had touched His cloak and had been healed of her 12-year painful bleeding condition comes forward. She tells her whole story, and rather than chastise her as she feared for her, an unclean woman touching Him, He pronounces that she has been completely healed, and can depart in peace since her faith in Him has saved her. At that moment people from Jairus house tell him so Jesus can hear too, that it's too late to save his daughter since she has passed. Jesus turns to Jairus and speaks words of faith and hope, "Don't be afraid. Simply believe as you had before." Jesus commands the crowds to stay put and takes only His three inner core disciples. They arrive at Jairus house amid the commotion of weeping and mourning. Jesus tells them that is not necessary since the girl is only sleeping. They make fun of Him for His seemingly stupid remark. He throws them all out and takes only His disciples and the girl's parents in where she is. Taking her hand He gives the command, "Little girl, I say to you arise!" And she does, getting up and walking around. All who witness this are immediately overcome with dumbfounded amazement. Jesus gives them a number of warnings not to tell anyone of what has transpired and tells her parents to give her something to eat.

### Focus Statement:

Jesus has the Almighty Power coupled with the steadfast love and compassion of God for His people. He not only intercedes to help us in a physical manner, but even more important seeks to bring us restored faith unto life everlasting. Both His restoring the woman from her bleeding and His raising Jairus daughter are examples of the final healing and restoring work He will do in all believers on the Last Day

### Function Statement:

#### Why it's important to know:

When we appeal to Jesus for help, we expect Him to work in a time frame and manner that we think is best. When He does not we can become fearful, like our situation is out of His control, or that He doesn't care about us; that He is helping others instead of us

#### What the hearer should do as a result:

Don't put Jesus in a box when we pray for healing. Know that He loves us no matter what happens as we have been shown in His death and resurrection. Don't fear, only believe that whatever is not healed in this life will be completely and totally restored in eternity.

**Subject Sentence: Don't let fear block your faith in Jesus love.**

## **Introduction: Fear blocking Faith**

It's very hard when the Lord doesn't operate or answer prayer in the manner that we want Him to or expect Him to. And even though when we look at it from a later, more objective point of view, we can sometimes understand why the Lord chose to answer when He did, we still many times expect Him to answer according to our will and plan, what we see as being the best for all at the time. And our willingness to consider that He might have a better way to answer goes out the window when we are praying about the health and welfare of a loved one.

When my middle daughter Virginia was pregnant with Nora, she developed problems with nausea. This went beyond the normal morning sickness and continued on and off throughout her pregnancy. It forced her to take off from work before she planned to. And it became a concern as far as her health and her unborn baby's health, especially since she was a diabetic. I would pray, and then hear that Virginia's condition was getting better, that the new medication was seeming to take away her nausea. Then several days later I would hear that it had started back up again. And no matter what your faith walk is, at these times doubt can begin to creep in. I remember thinking, "Is it because I didn't pray for her this morning? Is that why this started back up again?" I remember praying fervent heartfelt prayers, especially in the waiting room when they admitted her to the hospital when it was time for Nora to be born, and Virginia's continued nausea had become a real concern, to the point that they had brought in a specialist. I prayed and prayed, and then the word came from the nurses that her condition had not improved. And then all kinds of unhelpful thoughts start to creep into your head, thoughts about losing both her and the baby, wondering if she should've gone to another hospital, praying that Steve, her husband would remain strong and by her side through this whole thing.

Part of me knew that she and the baby were in the Lord's hands, and there was comfort in that thought. But then news that things had not changed would come, doubt would once again resurface. And it made me wonder if God was really there, really listening, really going to answer my prayers.

## **Putting Yourself in the shoes of Jairus.**

So as I was reading the Gospel Lesson today, I was able to put myself in Jairus' shoes, at least somewhat. Father's love their daughters. Fathers see themselves as protectors of their daughters as I mention last Sunday. It's part of our God given role. And when we cannot help and protect them it can do a number on us. It certainly did a number on Jairus.

He was one of the rulers of the Synagogue, meaning he held an administrative position. He was in charge of what would be read on the Sabbath, as well as who would read and teach. Now keep in mind Jesus had raised the anger of the Pharisees in one synagogue when they witnessed Him heal a man with a withered hand on the Sabbath, breaking their tradition regarding what is and is not allowed on the Sabbath day. The fact that Jairus is willing to possibly compromise his position as ruler of the Synagogue by coming and appealing to Jesus to heal his daughter speaks to how desperate he was. He was desperate because he knew his daughter was nearing the point of death. But this was desperation tempered by faith; he came and bowed before Jesus believing that He could help. And Jesus, showing the love and compassion of the Heavenly Father for all people starts out at once to head to Jairus house.

But on the way Jesus stops when He feels healing power go out from Him. And not only does He stop but He engages in an investigation as to who touched Him. We see the impatience and the lack of understanding of the Disciples as they comment to Jesus 'How on earth can you figure out who touched you? There's this huge crowd pressing in on You. Everyone is touching you!' And in the back of their minds is the thought, 'C'mon, we need to keep moving and get to this little girl that you promised to heal before it's too late.'

Jesus loves Jairus daughter. He knew that in the end she would live. If there was any concern, He could've healed her from where He got off the boat. He was more than capable of healing a sick person when they were not even present. This was no problem for the man who is also God. But at the same time He loved the woman who had reached out and touched His cloak. She had been suffering from a painful bleeding condition that had not only afflicted her physically, but emotionally, making her an outcast from society. This was a woman with a disease that made her ritually unclean. On top of this she had used up all that she had trying to be cured, yet none of the doctors she visited had helped her.

She was desperate. Yet even in her desperation she operated by faith, faith that Jesus had the power to heal her. She exhibited a faith even greater than Jairus. She knew Jesus didn't even have to touch her or outwardly acknowledge her presence. His whole being emanated health and healing. She had heard about those who only had touched His cloak and received healing. Being unclean she couldn't bring herself to step in front of Him and ask Him to heal her. But with great humility she came up behind Him and touched His outer garment. And her faith was rewarded! She was instantly and completely healed.

Jesus could've left it at just that. He could've gone on His way and made it to Jairus house, maybe before his daughter took her last breath. That's certainly what Jairus wanted, not this interruption to His original mission of mercy. But to Jesus, this was not an interruption. This woman and her condition were a valuable part of His mission as planned out by the will of the Heavenly Father, even when it didn't seem to Jairus or Jesus' disciples as such.

By touching Jesus she received physical healing. Now He wanted to speak with her so that she could be restored emotionally and spiritually. He asked who touched Him and scanned the crowd. She comes up to Him in fear that she has done something wrong, being an unclean woman who touched a Man of God, and did so in a secretive way, not asking for His permission to be healed. But she need not fear. Rather than reprimand her Jesus commends her. He speaks to her with the love and compassion of God the Father Himself, **Mark 5:34** **And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."** Her faith was placed in the exact right person in the exact right way. She can depart in peace, peace with God and peace with her fellow man. She has been completely and permanently healed from the disease that caused her to be a social outcast. By making her come forward Jesus restores her to her rightful place in society. And the peace that she has is not only with her fellow man, but with God. Faith in Christ is saving faith. She has been made well in body and soul. And the same word that Jesus used to declare he completely healed also means to be completely saved.

Meanwhile, while all this is going on, word comes from Jairus' house that its too late. **Mark 5:35** **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?"** Unhelpful words of despair and discouragement, exactly what Jairus didn't need to hear. His precious daughter had died. She couldn't hold out any longer. How bitter a pill this must've been to Jairus' ears. If only they hadn't stopped. After all he had put in his healing request before this woman had. And she had been living with her problem for 12 years. His daughter only had minutes left to live. If you and I had been managing Jesus' schedule we would've put the woman with the bleeding problem on the back burner. Or at least left her healed and unacknowledged. But not Jesus. He was still in control of all things.

### **Jesus shows His love for both women and for you and I**

And from His position of divine control He speaks loving yet powerful words to Jairus that counter those words of despair. **Mark 5:36** **But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe."** Jesus is not only telling him this, but giving him the divine command, words that from Jesus have the divine power from the Holy Spirit to speak a new reality into people's hearts and lives. Jesus says, "Don't be afraid!" Or better still, "Stop being afraid!" All is not yet lost. Trust in me.

**Mark 5:38-40** <sup>38</sup> **They came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and Jesus saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly.** <sup>39</sup> **And when he had entered, he said to them, "Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping."** <sup>40</sup> **And they laughed at him. But he put them all outside and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him and went in where the child was.**

Those mourners that Jesus encountered at Jairus' house spoke from their knowledge of death and dying. And they spoke from a lack of faith in who Jesus was and what He could do. They were thinking that the girl is dead and there is nothing more that could be done about except to mourn her passing. And they believe there is nothing that can be done by this supposed teacher from the backwoods of Galilee who hadn't even went in to see the girl's dead body yet. And he says she is sleeping! What a moron!' But Jesus is speaking as one who knows what life and death is all about. He is speaking as the author of life. Even if someone's body has ceased to live, with the heart stopped beating and the brain waves ceasing, death is not permanent until He says it is. Hence His telling them that she is only sleeping. Sleep was a euphemism for death, to take the harsh finality out of the word. But she had not passed so far beyond the pale that Jesus could not reach over and bring her back. And that's just what He did.

**Mark 5:41-42 <sup>41</sup> Taking her by the hand he said to her, "Talitha cumi," which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise." <sup>42</sup> And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement..**

Of all the miracles that Jesus had done up to this point, this one was huge! A girl who had clearly passed from life to death was now standing up and walking around, and all because this "backwoods Rabbi" had taken her hand and spoke a command to her. And immediately she responded. This girl who a second earlier had no life in her was now once again full of life. Of course those who witnessed this were flabbergasted. They were beyond amazed, wondering if what they had seen really had taken place! But of course, it had! This man standing before them is also the God who created life, and sustains life, the One who decides when life is over for all people. And He had declared that this young girl's life was not quite over yet.

Of course there was still a more magnificent miracle to come. This girl, God willing, would grow up, grow old, and die once again. She had a future date with death, as do all of us and our loved ones. But Jesus came to provide the biggest miracle of all so that her death, our death, and our loved one's death in this world is not the end. Out of the same great love that comes from the Father, Jesus had come to give His own life by dying on the cross. He did so to take from us all that would condemn us to the eternal death we deserve after we leave this world. And instead, as His resurrection declares, He give to us a life beyond this one. A life that never ends. A life that has no more suffering and death. A life to be lived out forever with Him in a world where nothing will ever die again. A life that we and our loved ones by faith will enjoy forever.

## **Living and Letting Jesus operate according to His will**

There are times in my life, as I'm sure there are for you too, when we want to re-write God's itinerary for healing and restoration. We want to tell Him that we took a number in prayer long ago, and it's our turn for Him to answer. We want to tell Him that our loved ones have been faithful Christians all their life and they deserve their prayers and ours to be answered, right now, and in the way we desire. After all Jesus, can't you see how much this trouble is consuming me? How much pain they are in? I've prayed and prayed, and you haven't done anything yet! Why!!??

The truth is Jesus has done something and is still doing something. He paid the price and opened the door for more than just healing and restoration in this life. Out of His great love He opened the door of forgiveness for our sinful self-centeredness and the doubts that fear causes in our hearts. He does provide healing and restoration in this life. But when He does that is only temporary. The real healing and restoration is the faith that comes to you through the Gospel Message. The faith by which you hold fast that Jesus' death and resurrection is for you. It's the power by which He speaks to you "Do not fear, only believe." It's His power and presence that walks with you through all your troubles in this world, and the troubles of those you care for, and by which He works to keep you in faith to life everlasting.

### **Conclusion**

I felt I knew how Jesus should best intercede in my daughter's life. I questioned why a loving God would allow her and the baby, as well as me, to continue suffering with prayers seemingly not answered. But He was listening, and He did answer them. Virginia made it through a difficult labor because of the Lord's powerful hands and loving presence. And baby Nora was born a beautiful and healthy girl. And Mom and baby are doing well to this very day. And He used this time of struggle in prayer on my part to strengthen my faith in His loving care of me and mine. But even if God had chosen not to answer my prayers, as difficult as that would be for me to accept and deal with, that does not negate God's loving care for my daughter, my granddaughter, or for me. He is the author of their life as well as mine, a gift that none of us deserve, yet we are given. And for all who believe in Jesus, whenever our time is over in this world, it is not the end, but the beginning of eternity to come. I'm learning to let God be God and to work according to His own timetable and in His own way. I can still put in my prayerful requests in for how I'd like things to go. But I keep trying to remember that when He appears not to be listening or answering, it's because He has something better in mind. I may not see it now. But by His grace and love I will see and understand in the eternity that is to come. Amen.