

# *Faith vs Fear*

**Mark 5:21-24**

**1**

**21** And when Jesus had crossed over again in the boat to the other side, a great multitude gathered about Him; and He stayed by the seashore. **22** And one of the synagogue officials named Jairus came up, and upon seeing Him, fell at His feet, **23** and entreated Him earnestly, saying, "My little daughter is at the point of death; please come and lay Your hands on her, that she may get well and live." **24** And He went off with him; and a great multitude was following Him and pressing in on Him.

**2**

As we go through this lesson there are four major points that we will try to look at. Most speech courses and old time preachers will tell you that the average audience or congregation will retain only about two or three points from a 30 to 45 minute lecture. But since I know this audience to be far above average and exceptional in its abilities, I feel safe in going for four.

**3**

1) We must be the ones to initiate the contact with our Lord

God has done everything He is going to do. Christ has set the stage and opened the door for us with His sacrifice and invitation to come unto Him, but the only way we can be healed is if we like the woman, come to him with a purpose.

**4**

2) Salvation, healing if you will, is not something that happens by accident

Salvation from God was planned from before the beginning.

**Eph 1:3-4**

**5**

**3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, **4** just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love

Salvation can only occur by coming into contact with Him through Christ,

**Acts 4:12**

**6**

**12** And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

But only occurs when it is our intention to act upon our faith.

**1 Peter 3:21**

**7**

**21** Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

**8**

3) In the face of what we might consider to be the impossible, do we fail to turn in faith to Christ, God to find there our strength to fight our fear?

**9**

4) Those who have no faith don't see the hand of God working in this world

The choices of the faithless blinds them to God.

There is no feeling more intense than to be worried about the safety and life of a loved one. The loss of a spouse or parent or beloved grandparent wrenches at the heart and tears the soul, but

even those great emotions seem to pale in comparison to the despair felt when it is a child, your child or grandchild.

Note how the Psalmist puts it...

*Ps 127:3-5*

**10**

**3** Behold, children are a gift of the Lord; The fruit of the womb is a reward. **4** Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth. **5** How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them; They shall not be ashamed, When they speak with their enemies in the gate.

*Ps 128:5-6*

**11**

**5** The Lord bless you from Zion, And may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life. **6** Indeed, may you see your children's children. Peace be upon Israel!

Living long enough to know your grandchildren is spoken of as a blessing from God.

Next to the blessing of salvation and forgiveness of our sins, children may be the second greatest gift God bestows on us. As much turmoil and heartache they might bring and as many times as you might want to start over, when a child crawls up into your lap or holds out their arms for you to take them up and hold them the warmth that grows in the heart is indescribable. I think that may be what makes watching them suffer even more painful.

Interestingly, at this point in Mark's narration, there is a slight interruption in the record of Jairus...

*Mark 5:25-34*

**READ**

**25** And a woman who had had a hemorrhage for twelve years, **26** and had endured much at the hands of many physicians, and had spent all that she had and was not helped at all, but rather had grown worse, **27** after hearing about Jesus, came up in the crowd behind Him, and touched His cloak. **28** For she thought, "If I just touch His garments, I shall get well." **29** And immediately the flow of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction. **30** And immediately Jesus, perceiving in Himself that the power proceeding from Him had gone forth, turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched My garments?" **31** And His disciples said to Him, "You see the multitude pressing in on You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?'" **32** And He looked around to see the woman who had done this. **33** But the woman fearing and trembling, aware of what had happened to her, came 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 affliction."

I don't think the inclusion in the passage of this account is accidental. We see here a statement of faith we can only strive for. This woman had been sick for twelve years, had spent all she had on healers and was worse off than ever. But after hearing about Jesus and what He was doing, she thought that if she could just touch the hem of His garment she could be healed. I wish we had more information about what happened when people were miraculously healed, but we don't, what we know is that she immediately knew in her body, that she was cured from a twelve year affliction. Maybe even more thought provoking than that is that Jesus knew immediately that power had flowed from Him and He asked who had touched Him. The disciples wanted to know what He meant. There were people all around Him pressing in on Him and he wants to know who touched Him. The point is that Jesus knew that this woman hadn't just touched Him, but had come to him with a purpose and with faith. His asking who touched Him wasn't so He would know, in all honesty, He probably already knew, He most certainly had the power to know, but rather it was to teach his disciples a lesson concerning His power and how He responds to those who come to Him.

The woman was frightened, but she came forward and confessed all to Jesus. Then Jesus taught His lesson, He could have reacted out of anger or indignation that she had had the audacity to infringe on Him, but He acknowledged her great faith, and bid her go in peace.

- 12** 1) We must be the ones to initiate the contact with our Lord. Christ has set the stage and opened the door for us with His sacrifice and invitation to come unto Him, but the only way we can be healed is if we like the woman, come to him with a purpose.

**Matt 11:28-29**

**X**

**28** "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. **29** Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.

- 13** 2) Salvation, healing if you will, is not something that happens by accidently coming into contact with Him, but only occurs when it is our intention to act upon our faith.

When we come to Christ in faith He welcomes us, acknowledges our faith and heals us.

Coming back to our passage, imagine what Jairus was feeling when he came to Jesus, in his desperation and his fear, he sought out the only help he could think of for his only child. Jairus pled with Jesus to come to his home and heal his child. Jairus was a leader in the synagogue, many of whom were among those that had rejected Jesus as the Messiah, but, like the woman, he had heard what Jesus was accomplishing and believed that his daughter could be healed.

Jesus used this situation, as He did many times in the scriptures and we saw with the woman, to teach an important truth.

Jairus had a fear of losing his daughter and he fought that fear with the only weapon that truly works against it, faith. He came to Jesus in faith, faith that Jesus not only could but would heal his daughter.

As He did with the woman, Jesus' response was one of compassion. He started off immediately to go to Jairus' house, but as we have already seen, He was delayed and that delay brought about, what, in the eyes of the world something that was an even greater miracle.

**Mark 5:35**

**14**

**35** While He was still speaking, they came from the house of the synagogue official, saying, "Your daughter has died; why trouble the Teacher anymore?"

Jairus' daughter was truly dead. While Jesus was still speaking to the woman he had just healed, a messenger came from the ruler's house and said to Jairus, "Thy daughter is dead; why troublest thou the Master any further?"

- 15 16** 3) In the face of what we might consider to be the impossible, do we fail to turn in faith to Christ, God to find there our strength to fight our fear?

**Ps 23:4**

**17**

**4** Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me.

God, Christ, the Word, and our faith in them is the only weapon on this Earth that can fight fear. When we place our trust in God, God will hold us up.

**Ps 27:1-3**

**18**

1 The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the defense of my life; Whom shall I dread? 2 When evildoers came upon me to devour my flesh, My adversaries and my enemies, they stumbled and fell. 3 Though a host encamp against me, My heart will not fear; Though war arise against me, In spite of this I shall be confident.

That is the message that Jesus sends to Jairus...

**Mark 5:36**

**19**

36 But Jesus, overhearing what was being spoken, said to the synagogue official, "Do not be afraid any longer, only believe."

Wouldn't it be wonderful to be able to have such control over our emotions that we could simply stop fearing and let our faith be the only thing we feel? I wish I could tell you how to do that. I wish there was a magic formula that we could take like a pill that would give us the strength of faith and commitment to put fear out of our hearts and minds.

**20** I don't, but God does...

**Ps 34:7-9**

**21**

7 The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, And rescues them. 8 O taste and see that the Lord is good; How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him! 9 O fear the Lord, you His saints; For to those who fear Him, there is no want.

Christ told Jairus, don't fear, believe. Believe that the power of the Lord is greater than anything of this world. Believe that Christ understands our fear and our pain and wants to help. Believe that He will help. That is the message given to Jairus. That is the message that He wanted His disciples and everyone else to understand. Jesus took with Him Peter, James and John, to witness what was coming. When they arrived at the home of Jairus, they found those that were mourning the loss of the child and the professional wailers.

**Mark 5:37-39**

**22**

37 And He allowed no one to follow with Him, except Peter and James and John the brother of James. 38 And they came to the house of the synagogue official; and He beheld a commotion, and people loudly weeping and wailing. 39 And entering in, He said to them, "Why make a commotion and weep? The child has not died, but is asleep."

I love this passage, to me, it shows the humanity of Jesus. Jesus wasn't some cold automaton who was aloof from His fellow man, He was loving, caring, and had the capacity for anger and a lightness. He says to them, "Seriously, what's all the noise? The child is not dead, but sleeps." Essentially, He says where is your faith?

**Mark 5:40**

**23**

40 And they began laughing at Him. But putting them all out, He took along the child's father and mother and His own companions, and entered the room where the child was.

The crowd of mourners did not demonstrate faith, and that may very well be the understatement of the century, they didn't just not believe, they laughed at Jesus. Does, you don't tug on Superman's cape, mean anything to you? The verb *kategélœen*, used only in this passage, means "were laughing Him down to the point of ridiculing Him."

We see here an example of the world in action. Those who don't believe as well as those who believe Jesus to be only a teacher, deride Him and His teaching, they have no faith and therefore exhibit none. When Jesus spoke of death as sleep, those of the world ignored Him and

chose to believe that He could do nothing. However, if we believe that Jesus is more than a teacher, that He is God incarnate, then we don't need to fear death. Instead, we can have hope, in both this world and the one to come.

**Rom 8:18**

**24**

**18** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

**25 26**

4) Those who have no faith don't see the hand of God working in this world. Their choice blinds them to God.

**Mark 3:28-29**

**27**

**28** "Truly I say to you, all sins shall be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they utter; **29** but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin "

When someone lives in a state of denial, when they choose to ignore their spiritual relationship with God through Christ, they cannot be saved. They are living a blasphemous life of denying the Spirit.

Because those that chose to ridicule and laugh were unbelievers, there was no opportunity for them to witness the miracle of the resurrection, either of this girl's or Jesus'. Their lack of faith prevented them from experiencing His power over death. Instead, He put them all out of the room and kept only the girl's parents and His disciples as witnesses. We don't want our lack of faith to prevent us from experiencing His power over death and being raised with Him into the newness of life. Only God can give life.

**Gen 2:7**

**28**

**7** Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

**29**

- 1) We must be the ones to initiate the contact with our Lord. Christ has set the stage and opened the door for us with His sacrifice and invitation to come unto Him, but the only way we can be healed is if we like the woman, come to him with a purpose.
- 2) Salvation, healing if you will, is not something that happens by accidently coming into contact with Him, but only occurs when it is our intention to act upon our faith.
- 3) In the face of what we might consider to be the impossible, do we fail to turn in faith to Christ, God to find there our strength to fight our fear?
- 4) Here is our final point. Those who have no faith don't see the hand of God working in this world. Their choice blinds them to God.

**30**

Give it to God, because **Faith** is stronger than **Fear**.