

## Unit .22

### Session .02

# Jesus Heals a Woman and Raises a Girl

#### Scripture



## Mark 5:21-43

**21** When Jesus had crossed over again by boat to the other side, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the sea. **22** One of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet **23** and begged him earnestly, “My little daughter is dying. Come and lay your hands on her so that she can get well and live.” **24** So Jesus went with him, and a large crowd was following and pressing against him. **25** Now a woman suffering from bleeding for twelve years **26** had endured much under many doctors. She had spent everything she had and was not helped at all. On the contrary, she became worse. **27** Having heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his clothing. **28** For she said, “If I just touch his clothes, I’ll be made well.” **29** Instantly her flow of blood ceased, and she sensed in her body that she was healed of her affliction. **30** At once Jesus realized in himself that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and said, “Who touched my clothes?” **31** His disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing against you, and yet you say, ‘Who touched me?’” **32** But he was looking around to see who had done this. **33** The woman, with fear and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came

and fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. **34** “Daughter,” he said to her, “your faith has saved you. Go in peace and be healed from your affliction.” **35** While he was still speaking, people came from the synagogue leader’s house and said, “Your daughter is dead. Why bother the teacher anymore?” **36** When Jesus overheard what was said, he told the synagogue leader, “Don’t be afraid. Only believe.” **37** He did not let anyone accompany him except Peter, James, and John, James’s brother. **38** They came to the leader’s house, and he saw a commotion—people weeping and wailing loudly. **39** He went in and said to them, “Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but asleep.” **40** They laughed at him, but he put them all outside. He took the child’s father, mother, and those who were with him, and entered the place where the child was. **41** Then he took the child by the hand and said to her, “Talitha koum” (which is translated, “Little girl, I say to you, get up”). **42** Immediately the girl got up and began to walk. (She was twelve years old.) At this they were utterly astounded. **43** Then he gave them strict orders that no one should know about this and told them to give her something to eat.

## Intro Options



**Main Point:**  
Jesus calls us to have  
faith in His ability to  
heal both the physical  
and spiritual.

## Option 1

St. Jude Hospital is known for treating what no one else can. After exhausting every other option, weary and worried parents bring their children hoping to find care no one else can provide. While others find an end to their abilities, St. Jude Hospital specializes in lost causes. So does Jesus.

One of the unique things about Jesus, however, is that He provides more than just hope for a cure. He is the cure, and He offers Himself to all who turn to Him. But that turning is much like the families that turn to St. Jude in their time of need—it means we have come to the end of our ropes, having abandoned all pride, desperate for the cure.

### ▪ How does pride keep us from Jesus?

The Gospel of Mark is like the highlight tape of Jesus. Short, fast-paced, and to the point, it's like a greatest hits album. This, however, does not mean it's simple. Through the story in this session, we will see the wide-ranging benefits of faith in Christ. The faith Jesus calls us to in this passage is ever increasing. The woman came to Jesus for the healing of her affliction but found something greater. A desperate father sought out Jesus for the healing of his dying daughter but ended up seeing her resurrected. Jesus wants us to trust Him for more than temporary relief. He wants us to trust Him for the resurrection.

## Option 2

The purest diamonds are known by their clarity. The clearer the stone and the bigger the size (measured in carats), the more expensive the diamond. Still, the reality is that most diamonds form with imperfections. These imperfections in diamonds are called inclusions. Diamonds are ranked based on these inclusions. A diamond with no flaws visible when magnified is considered flawless, while a diamond with inclusions that can be seen easily without magnification are much lower on the scale and described as having obvious inclusions. Nicks and dings on the surface of the diamond can be polished away, and won't affect the diamond's value as much as a crack just under the top part of the stone.

Just as diamonds have imperfections, so do we. Some of our flaws are more visible than others. Some are only seen with a closer look at our hearts. Either way, Jesus didn't just come to "polish" our flaws, He came to forgive us for them and free us from them. His power overcomes the shame of our mistakes. His purity washes out any impurities in us and fills us with His righteousness.

## TEACHING PLAN

### Read Mark 5:25-29.



The woman of the Mark 5 story suffered. For twelve years she suffered the physical, emotional, and social costs of her incurable disease. But it was, in some ways, far worse than we can imagine today. According to Leviticus 15:25-27, her hemorrhage of blood made her ceremonially unclean. She was cast out of Jewish social life. Merely touching another person would transmit her uncleanness to them—no hugging, no handshaking, no tender pats on the head or shoulder for comfort. Her physical longing must have reached far beyond a desire for a cure. She needed human contact.

Added to her problems was the fact that she went to many doctors and spent all her money searching for a cure and found none. Mark states that she was not helped at all. In fact, she was worse off after seeing the doctors. Every attempt at healing only increased her suffering. Her desperation only grew and grew.


The woman didn't know the full power of Jesus at that moment. All she had was a simple but profound faith that He could do what others could not. She somehow knew that He alone would cure while others had only failed. So she came and reached out in faith.

- **Has desperation ever led you to Jesus? What was going on during that time?**

### Read Mark 5:30-34.



The woman of Mark 5 understood shame. She was shunned by others because she was ceremonially impure because of her disease. The priest confirmed it. People turned from her on the streets. In fear of either contracting her disease or becoming ceremonially unclean, she was treated as a walking plague. She didn't merely feel worthless; to the culture, she *was* worthless. Then Jesus took a walk one day.

By this point, the woman knew Jesus was her only hope. By faith, she ran and touched His garment. That touch made Jesus ceremonially unclean, as would any touch from such an impure person. But when she touched Him, the reverse happened. Her touch didn't make Jesus unclean; Jesus' power made her clean. She didn't stay as she was. She was changed in an instant: her uncleanness for Jesus' purity. That's what the touch of faith grants. It makes us whole again. Jesus takes what we can't live with and gives us what will make us live forever. It's the exchange every desperate heart longs for—Jesus taking what we can no longer bear and giving what we can only dream of. 

- **Why is shame such a powerful emotion? Why do feelings of shame often accompany feelings of hopelessness?**
- **What does the exchange between the woman's uncleanness and Jesus' purity point to about our sin and salvation?**

Jesus wanted to heal this woman deep within. He wanted to heal her shame. So He turned to the throngs of people, wanting to know who touched Him. He called her out. He forced her to step out of the crowd, to come to the center of the street, to face all those whom she knew despised her. What was Jesus doing at that moment? He was welcoming her back in. He was rejoining her to the community.

# COMMENTARY

## Main Point:

Jesus calls us to have faith in His ability to heal both the physical and spiritual.

## Mark 5

**25-26.** “The Talmud listed no less than eleven cures for this specific illness. Some were potions, but others were mere superstitious folly. For example, in one place it said:

Take of the gum of Alexandria the weight of a small silver coin; of alum the same; of crocus the same. Let them be bruised together, and given in wine to the woman that has an issue of blood. If this does not benefit take of Persian onions three pints; boil them in wine, and give her to drink, and say ‘Arise from thy flux.’ If this does not cure her, set her in a place where two ways meet, and let her hold a cup of wine in her right hand, and let some one come behind and frighten her, and say, ‘Arise from thy flux.’

In another place, the Talmud recommended that the afflicted woman carry a barley corn which had been taken from the droppings of a white she donkey! Very likely this woman had tried some of these remedies, but to no avail. Mark says she ‘had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse’ (Mark 5:26). The wretched woman was broke, cut off from home, society, and religion, and in declining health. She was at the bottom!”<sup>1</sup>

**27-28.** How did the woman get here? Mark tells us she heard about Jesus. Before we come to Jesus, we must hear about Him. As Paul wrote in Romans 10:14, “How, then, can they call on him they have not believed in? And how can they believe without hearing about him?” As Jesus’ fame spread, His message spread. She heard His word, even if not directly from his mouth. The message of hope racing around the first-century world reached her ears—and she listened. A thought rose in her heart, “If I just touch his clothes, I’ll be made well” (v. 28).



## 99 Essential Doctrines *(p. 16, DDG)*

### Faith

Biblical faith is the resting, or trusting, in Christ alone for salvation (John 3:16-21). More than being simply a mental agreement of historical facts, genuine faith begins with a recognition and confession of the truth of the gospel (1 John 4:13-16), followed by a receiving of Christ as Lord and Savior of one’s life (John 1:10-13). Biblical faith is not blind faith, for it rests on the historical life, death, and resurrection of Christ.

# TEACHING PLAN

Read Mark 5:35-36,39-43.



During this interruption, Jairus received some terrible news—his daughter had died. How Jairus' heart must have broken! Jesus, however, didn't seem surprised. Verse 36 says, in short, Jesus heard but ignored what they said. Yes, the girl died, but He's not concerned with her death. He was concerned about what Jairus believed. It's as if her death was part of the plan for the day.

This side of the cross, we understand death is not an unconquerable enemy to Jesus. But Jairus didn't know that. Even Jesus' disciples had yet to learn it. Jesus turned, looked Jairus in the eyes, and said, "Don't be afraid. Only believe."


### ▪ How does the knowledge of Jesus' power influence any fear we may have over suffering and death?

Just glance through the Gospels and you will see that the Bible includes several miraculous healings. After all, Jesus had just made the woman well, right? But it is not the temporary healing of this life for which Jesus wants us to trust Him. If we put all our hope in this world, no matter how long we live, suffering still wins. You will die someday. Even the woman who was healed eventually died. The greatest healing of Jesus is an eternal one. It's to that hope we must look. And it's to that hope which this passage points. It's to that hope which Jesus calls us to believe.

When our lives don't go well, it can become difficult to trust that God has a good plan for us. Biblical faith is more than trusting Jesus for physical healing. Biblical faith is trusting Jesus for resurrection healing. Jairus was looking for a fix to his current crisis. Jesus was directing him to a lasting hope, a resurrection hope. When his little girl died, did Jairus' faith die with her? No, because his faith wasn't ultimately in her life but in Jesus' word. Jesus is looking for us to have faith in Him, not in our circumstances. Because of His ability to raise Jairus' daughter—and moreover because of His own resurrection—we know we can trust Jesus even in death, we know there is hope beyond the grave.

### ▪ How does the death and resurrection of Jesus give us hope beyond death?

Trusting Jesus is the proper response to all troubles, physical and spiritual. We can never make ourselves whole. There was power that went out of Jesus that day to both the woman and the little girl. We want that kind of power coming toward us. In one way, it already has come to those who have placed their faith in Jesus. Yet, the gospel also promises one day we will experience Jesus' healing and resurrecting power in a fuller way.

One day this dying body will be raised to newness of life. God will give us glorified bodies that will never hurt and never die again. Until that day, we look to Jesus for hope, knowing that the promise is sure because He showed us in His resurrection. By faith, we have died with Christ, and by faith, we will be raised again. Trust him. Don't fear. Only believe. 

### ▪ What can we learn from the faith of the woman and the faith of Jairus?

# COMMENTARY

**Main Point:**  
Jesus calls us to have  
faith in His ability to  
heal both the physical  
and spiritual.

## Mark 5

**30-34.** In calling the woman to center stage, Jesus called her to Himself. When she came, she told Him the whole truth. What did she tell Him? She probably told Him everything that happened to her. That's perhaps how Mark knows her story. She told of all her struggles, all her pain and suffering, all her feelings of shame and despair, all her attempts at finding a cure. She told about seeing Him, coming to Him, touching Him, trusting in His power to help her. She told it all. She probably said more. Who knows to what depths she went. And there were things she didn't say that Jesus knew anyway. No wonder she trembled!

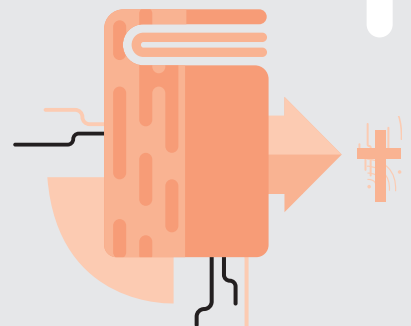
Jesus reversed her shame into glory. The very disease that took her from others brought her to Jesus, and in Him, she was healed by faith. Shame says you'll never belong. But Jesus says, by faith in Him, you'll belong forever. Let Jesus remove your shame. He wants you—the whole you.

**36.** “Don't be afraid.” Fear is a natural response at a time such as this. What is more fearful than death? Only the death of a loved one, such as a daughter. Parents can face their own death with more courage than the death of a child. How can you live on with an empty seat at the dinner table, an empty bed upstairs, a seat in the car vacant? Jesus was asking Jairus to do something any parent would find incredibly hard, if not impossible.

“Only believe.” There is a positive command alongside the negative command: believe. Jesus didn't only say, “Don't be afraid.” He also said, “Only believe.” He pointed Jairus away from fear through the power of belief. Jairus came boldly to Jesus, fell at His feet, and pleaded for his daughter's life. He and the woman were vastly different in social standing, but before Jesus, there wasn't an ounce of difference. Both were needy for a power they did not possess, a power no one else had access to, a power that could heal disease with merely a touch. For all their differences, faith bound them together, and faith kept them going—in Jairus' case, even amid the worst possible news.

## (p. 18, DDG) Christ Connection

The woman who pushed her way into the crowd around Jesus was ceremonially unclean, thereby rendering all who touched her unclean. When she touched Jesus, however, her illness was healed. Jesus' purity was more powerful than her impurity. In this encounter, we see a glimpse of what Christ has accomplished for us on the cross. Through faith in Jesus' death and resurrection, our shame is removed, our guilt is absolved, and God begins His work of making us pure and holy, like His Son.



# Our Mission

God's Story has always been designed to connect with our story. It is because of His Story that our stories make sense, have meaning, and carry on into eternity. Use the questions below to help think through how His Story connects with your own. Suggested answers to these questions can be found on the right-hand side of the page for leaders.

## Head



**Do you ever think that God isn't reachable? How does this account teach otherwise?**

**What does this account teach about our condition before coming to Jesus? Why is this important?**

## Heart



**Why is it important that once again Jesus is interested in more than physical healing?**

**What do you think is the difference between Jesus offering physical healing and personal involvement in our lives?**

## Hands



**How do these accounts challenge us in our own pursuit of Jesus this week?**

**What can you take from these account to someone you want to encourage or minister to this week?**

## **Main Point:** Jesus calls us to have faith in His ability to heal both the physical and spiritual.



### **Head**

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The message the woman heard of Jesus was that He was reachable. Others had come to Him and found healing. When she saw He was in town, she knew He wasn't only visible from afar but drawing near for people like her. Do we realize that about Him? Do we understand that Jesus the Messiah is reachable?

We're prone to make up rules to obey before we come to Jesus. After all, we want to come on the best terms possible. But Jesus is ready to receive us right now, in all our uncleanness, provided we understand how low we really are. He comes not to the one holding him or herself together but to the one repentant, to the one desperate for a God as big as He. He calls to Himself not the righteous but the sinner, not the well but the sick. He calls the weary and the burdened, and He promises to give rest (Matt. 11:28). When your life is falling apart, Jesus is still reachable. All it takes to reach Him is receiving His call to come, coming with empty hands, and reaching for His full grace.



### **Heart**

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The power that left Jesus by faith's touch was not the end; it was only the beginning. The woman went to Jesus for physical healing, but His power goes far deeper. All who suffer believe that if only their affliction ended, their lives would become whole again. Unfortunately, it's not that easy. The old saying, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me," is a lie. Time can heal a broken body, but shame is eternal—at least until the eternal God gets involved.

Involvement is what Jesus gives. We come to Him for a healing touch, thinking the cure we need is simple. But He knows the truth. He knows our hearts. He knows that without His turning to us in mercy and grace, we may walk away healed but not truly well. Jesus aims to give us more than we bargained for. We're looking for a quick fix. He's giving an eternal weight of glory.



### **Hands**

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If we know Jesus and follow Him, then we never need to walk in shame again. Despite whatever we might have done in the past, or despite whatever may have been done to us, an encounter with Jesus means we are not the same, and those things can neither define us nor destroy us. Jesus offers healing, especially in those areas where the human heart needs it most. Not only that, but the message of hope and faith and healing we receive from Jesus' encounter with these individuals is the same message we can share with someone who needs a word of hope to cling to this week.