

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO
MARK

Week 17: Desperate for Jesus

Read Mark 5:21-43

1. WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THE TWO MIRACLES?

I. Sometimes We Need To Be Desperate

Read Mark 5: 22 & 25, Leviticus 15:25, Proverbs 3:5, Jeremiah 32:17

Both Jairus and the woman who suffered from bleeding were both humbled and desperate before Jesus. The woman's condition was for more than just a physical issue (though that would have caused enough suffering on its own), it had huge social and spiritual implications for her life, because she was declared 'unclean' in her community. Not only was she unable to be the woman she was called to be in her family and in her home, but she was also banned from going to the temple to worship God. She was as good as dead, both isolated and hopeless. Sometimes the best thing that can happen to us is to run out of options because as long as we have options, we are not going to ask God for his intervention. When we have options we become self-reliant and we still believe that we have a measure of control, even though the scripture says we do not. When we come to the end of ourselves, we realise that we are totally dependent on and desperate for God to work.

II. Sometimes We Need Just A Little Hope

Read Mark 5:28, Luke 8:44, Malachi 4:2, Psalm 9:18, Isaiah 40:29

The woman knew that the Messiah that they had all been waiting for would bring healing. She believed that if she was able to just touch the edge of his cloak that she could be healed.

III. Sometimes All We Need Is A Little Boldness

Read Mark 5:24

She knew that everyone she walked past and touched would also become unclean, but this did not stop her because she believed. She pushed through until she got to Jesus, despite what others thought or how they may have reacted. It took incredible boldness.

- ❖ Q: Do you think that the woman with the bleeding condition could have done anything more to help herself get well?
- ❖ Q: What is the difference between being 'responsible' and being 'in control' of our circumstances?
- ❖ Q: Why is it that we do not rely on God completely until we have run out of options? Is this something that has happened to you before? If so, what did you learn about yourself and about God through the process?
- ❖ Q: Why is a little hope in Jesus necessary for us when our situation is impossible?
- ❖ Q: Do you think that the woman would have been healed had she not been bold enough to touch Jesus' cloak? What does this teach us?

2. WHAT DOES THIS TEACH US ABOUT JESUS?

I. Jesus Sees Through The Issue And Sees The Actual Issue

Read Mark 5:34 & 36

Though her illness was serious, what was even worse was the isolation from her own people. In healing her, Jesus called her into his family and made her acceptable to her own community again. In doing that he took away her shame and emotional pain. Jairus's situation was even worse. His daughter was dead. There was nowhere else to turn but to Jesus. When Jesus addressed him, he spoke into the deeper issue that Jairus was facing, and that was his crippling fear. Jesus invites us to bring our hurts, shame and fear to him.

II. Jesus Shows No Favouritism

Read Romans 2:11, Deuteronomy 10:17, 1 Corinthians 1:28

Jesus gave the same time and attention to the synagogue ruler as he did to the unclean woman. We should show no partiality either.

- ❖ Q: Why is it important for us to see that Jesus is concerned for our heart issues as well as our circumstances?
- ❖ Q: What heart issues is Jesus trying to deal with in you, as you seek him in your difficult circumstances? What areas of healing do you need from him? What can we as a Gospel Community pray for as you seek God for break-through?

