



Growth Group Questions
February 2, 2025
“Faith and Fear”

CONTEXT

After Jesus has healed a man with an “impure” spirit in the region of Gerasenes, the people pleaded with him to leave and go someplace else. He crosses over the Sea of Galilee and once again a crowd gathers around him, but this time the crowd is welcoming. As he makes his way, Jairus - a leader of a Jewish synagogue - approaches him. Jairus’ daughter is near death, and he believes that Jesus can put his hands on her and heal her, like what Elijah had done in 1 Kings 17.

Jairus was the ruler of a synagogue which was a position held by lay leaders. He was not a priest or a rabbi, but he would have been a highly and well-respected leader. Jesus agrees to go with him to his house. As he travels a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years gets close enough to Jesus to touch him in hopes that touching him will bring her healing.

This woman would have been considered unclean and, technically, by touching Jesus she would have also made him unclean. This event reminds us of Jesus’ rejection of the concept of ritual uncleanness and affirms his acceptance of all persons no matter their status in society. Jesus does not reprimand her for being in public or touching him. He is actually as persistent in looking for her, as she was in getting close enough to touch him. He doesn’t just want to heal someone, he wants to talk with her.

It is interesting to note the power and influence of a person like Jairus in comparison to the unnamed and unclean woman who approaches Jesus in hopes of being healed. She sneaks up on Jesus whereas Jairus speaks to him face-to-face. Her healing may be a sign for Jairus who is now having to wait.

Jesus has stopped. He is no longer heading to the house of Jairus. The hopes of Jesus healing his daughter have been interrupted. Yet, this woman gives us a beautiful image of the kind of faith that Jesus is calling Jairus to have. Will he trust God despite the seemingly hopeless

circumstances? Will he have faith to believe that Jesus can restore his daughter just as he has restored this woman who had reached out for healing?

SCRIPTURE

Mark 5:21-34, 38-42

²¹ When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. ²² Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. ²³ He pleaded earnestly with him, “My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.” ²⁴ So Jesus went with him.

A large crowd followed and pressed around him. ²⁵ And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. ²⁶ She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. ²⁷ When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸ because she thought, “If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.” ²⁹ Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

³⁰ At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched my clothes?” ³¹ “You see the people crowding against you,” his disciples answered, “and yet you can ask, ‘Who touched me?’ ” ³² But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. ³³ Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. ³⁴ He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.”

³⁸ When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. ³⁹ He went in and said to them, “Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep.” ⁴⁰ But they laughed at him.

After he put them all out, he took the child’s father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. ⁴¹ He took her by the hand and said to her, “*Talitha koum!*” (which means “Little girl, I say to you, get up!”). ⁴² Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished.

Exodus 29:37

³⁷ For seven days make atonement for the altar and consecrate it. Then the altar will be most holy, and whatever touches it will be holy.

Genesis 3:8-9

⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”

Romans 8:31-32

³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

QUESTIONS:

1. Mark 5:21-42 contains the story of two different people who had faith in Jesus. How do you define faith in Jesus? Where does this faith come from?
2. How would you compare or contrast the faith of Jairus and the faith of the woman in Mark 5:21-42?
3. What does it tell you about Jesus that he stopped and waited for the woman to identify herself?
4. Mark 5:33 tells us that after Jesus stopped and asked “Who touched me?” the woman came forward and fell to her knees before Jesus and told him “the whole truth.” What do you think she might have told Him? What can we learn from this?
5. As Pastor Paul pointed out, God doesn’t always act on the timeline we would like. What does the story of Jairus teach us about what we should remember during these times?
6. How does Jesus’ interaction with the woman and Jairus offer comfort to us today?
7. Pastor Paul began his sermon by saying that suffering and interruptions in our lives can lead to a place of fear and uncertainty when we ask: “Where is God in all of this?” What Bible verses help to remind you of God’s presence when you are experiencing fear or anxiety about something?
8. What do the stories of the sick woman and Jairus lead you to think about in terms of how you approach Jesus with your needs and desires, particularly in times of difficulty?
9. Pastor Paul’s sermon focused Mark 5: 21-34 and Mark 5:38-42. As you read through the entire chapter during the week, what did you learn about Jesus?

Pastor Paul’s Sermon Questions:

1. Interruptions often teach us something. Think of a lesson or two you have learned when your life was interrupted.
2. Is there a place in your life where you need to receive the word of peace that Jesus can offer to you?