

Preaching Through the Bible - Chapter 10 Mark 5:21-43

Lord of Creation continued

We have seen that Jesus revealed Himself as Lord over creation^{☞1} and as Conqueror of Satan^{☞2}. Now He shows Himself to be Lord over death^{☞3} and disease^{☞4}.

☞1 4:35-41
☞2 5:1-20
☞3 5:21-24
☞4 5:35-43
5:25-34

The two stories in 5:21-43 are intertwined. One story is told within another story.

Lord over death and disease

The disciples come to the western shore of the lake^{☞1}. A synagogue official, Jairus, comes to Jesus asking for his daughter to be healed^{☞2}. Jesus goes with him, followed by a great crowd who are eager to see another miracle^{☞3}. As Jesus, Jairus and the crowd are going along, a woman suffering from a constant haemorrhage follows closely after Jesus. Just as Jairus' daughter is twelve years old, so the woman has had the problem for twelve years also^{☞4}. She has suffered from many doctors who have been unable to help her^{☞5}. Like Jairus she also believes that one tiny bit of faith in Jesus will bring her healing^{☞6}. As soon as she touches Jesus she is healed^{☞7}. Jesus is conscious that something has happened^{☞8} and soon finds out about the woman^{☞9}. But He reassures the woman and lets her know her faith has brought her healing^{☞10}.

☞1 5:21
☞2 5:22-23
☞3 5:24
☞4 5:25
☞5 5:26
☞6 5:27-28
☞7 5:29
☞8 5:30
☞9 5:31-33
☞10 5:34

Jesus' power over the worst human distress

At about that time, news comes that Jairus' daughter has died^{☞1} but Jesus insists on continuing the journey to Jairus' house, allowing only four men to come with Him^{☞2}. He arrives and finds the girl has indeed died, although Jesus insists that her death is only *sleeping* and that she will soon be alive again^{☞3}. He takes her by the hand and she is raised from the dead^{☞4}.

☞1 5:35
☞2 5:35-37
☞3 5:38-40a
☞4 5:40b-43

The intention of these two stories, which are intertwined, seems to be to point us to the very great power of Jesus over the worst kind of human distress.

1. Both sufferers had pain and disappointment

1. **Both sufferers have problems which are overwhelmingly painful.** Jairus has seen his daughter steadily deteriorate; she is at the point of death when he turns to Jesus. *“My daughter is at the point of death”*, he says^{☞1}. The woman has been suffering for twelve years^{☞2} and had received many disappointments in her attempts to get help from doctors^{☞3}. She had used all her financial resources in her attempts to get assistance^{☞4}. Both sufferers had faced great disappointments and it seemed almost impossible that anyone would be able to help.

☞1 5:23
☞2 5:25
☞3 5:26
☞4 5:26

Sometimes God allows some problems to continue in our lives for a long time; or He lets a problem run to an extreme point, where it seems that a change in the situation is impossible.

2. Both sufferers had great faith

2. **The two sufferers both have great faith in Jesus despite the severity of their predicaments.** Jairus believes that one touch from Jesus will bring restoration and life to his child^{☞1}. The woman believes that such power radiates out from Jesus that even the slightest touch of His clothes will bring her healing^{☞2}.

☞1 5:22
☞2 5:28

3. Both sufferers were challenged as they are about to get an answer

3. **Jairus and the woman both find that at the very point where they are about to get an answer, great challenges come.** The woman was hoping to get a secret healing. One can understand why she felt this way. She was ceremonially *unclean*. Her being in a crowd and being touched by many people would make them angry if they discovered she was ceremonially unclean according to Mosaic law.

Preaching Through the Bible - Chapter 10 Mark 5:21-43

At the point where she seems to have received a miracle without anyone knowing (even without Jesus knowing), she is suddenly exposed. Jesus demands to know who touched Him. She is full of fear and tremblingly comes forward. Is she going to get into trouble? Will her healing be cancelled since she took it without permission? At the very point where she seems to be getting rescued from her twelve years of suffering, there comes a challenge to her hopes.

Jairus has something similar happen to him. He, Jesus and three disciples are walking to Jairus' home. It looks as if Jesus is going to do the impossible and Jairus' daughter will be healed. Suddenly a messenger arrives. **"Don't bother Jesus any further,"** he says. **"Your daughter has died."** What discouraging news for Jairus when all his hopes of healing are high. Worse still, when Jesus speaks of the girl being only **"asleep"** (that is that she will be raised shortly), the crowd laugh Him to scorn. Like the woman, Jairus seems to be finding all his hopes dashed just at the point when he was getting something wonderful from Jesus.

4. Both sufferers given strong encouragement by Jesus

4. **Jesus gives both sufferers strong encouragement.** **"Daughter, your faith has healed you ... Go in peace..."** He says to the woman. She is not to lose the miracle after all. Jesus understands and only wants her to realise that it was faith that brought her such blessing.

Jairus too gets encouragement. **"Don't be afraid,"** Jesus said. **"Just believe."**^{5:36}

^{5:36}

5. Both sufferers experience Jesus' mighty power

5. **Both sufferers experience Jesus' mighty power in their lives.** The woman experiences Jesus' gentleness and compassionate ways^{5:35} and is given the miracle she had wanted. Jairus too sees Jesus' tender ways as He takes the girl by the hand and talks to her not in the Greek of the educated people, but in the Aramaic of the ordinary people, the language which a child would use^{5:41}; and then, when she has recovered, Jesus is concerned to give her something to eat so that she will feel well and strong^{5:43}.

^{5:35}

^{5:41}

^{5:43}

Jesus' instructions

Jesus gives instructions that the event should be kept secret. The excitement that news of a resurrection would bring would only interrupt His work. The four miracles^{5:1-43} reveal Jesus' power over dangers and demons, over disease and death. But Jesus has no interest in pure excitement. He has come not simply to be a wonder-worker, but to be the divine Son of God making His way to the cross. After the resurrection, the stories may be told. For the moment Jesus wants to be acknowledged by a faith that recognises who He is.

^{5:1-43}

Study 10

Lord of Death and Disease

Read: Mark 5:21-43

Read: *Preaching Through the Bible: Mark, Chapter 10* (see pages 7 and 8)

A. Lord over death and disease

1. Where did these events take place?
2. Who was Jairus?
3. **True** or **false**:
 - a. Jesus told Jairus to bring his daughter to him.
 - b. The crowd followed Jesus to the house of Jairus.
 - c. The crowd of people were eager to see a miracle.
4. A woman was following them. What was her problem?
5. How long had she had that problem?
6. How old was Jairus' daughter?
7. **True** or **false**:
 - a. Doctors had been unable to help the woman.
 - b. The woman believed that her small faith could bring healing from Jesus.
 - c. The woman asked Jesus for help.
 - d. She reached out and touched Jesus.
 - e. Jesus was unaware that she had touched Him.
8. What reassurance did Jesus give to the woman?
.....
9. What happened shortly after the woman was healed?
.....
10. **True** or **false**:

- a. Jesus told Jairus that it was too late for Him to help his daughter.
 - b. The messengers told Jesus to give up His plan to help the girl.
 - c. Jesus encouraged the crowd to go with Him to Jairus' house.
 - d. When He saw the girl, Jesus described her death as *sleeping*.
11. Which disciples did Jesus take with Him into the house? P, J.....and J.....
12. How did the local people who were wailing and crying respond to Jesus' words about the girl 'only sleeping'?
13. What do the Aramaic^g words "*Talitha koum*" mean?
14. **True** or **false**:
- a. The girl stood up.
 - b. The girl began to walk.
 - c. The people were astonished.
 - d. Jesus said, "*Let's have a celebration party with lots of food.*".....

B. Jesus' power over the worst human distress

1. What seems to be the main point of these two intertwined^g stories?
2. Both sufferers were facing problems that were o.....p.....
 - a. Jairus' daughter was at the point of d.....
 - b. The woman had used up all her m..... seeking help
 - c. In both cases the situation seemed im.....
3. The woman was c..... un..... according to the law of M.....
 - a. She wanted to get her healing in s..... .
 - b. She feared the a..... of the crowd.
 - c. She feared that Jesus would c..... her healing if He knew who she was.
4. Jairus discovered that his daughter was not just seriously ill but d.....
 - a. The messengers told him to g..... u....
 - b. When Jesus said she was only sl..... the crowd were sc..... .

- c. Jairus' high hopes seemed to be d..... (taken away).
- 5. Jesus gives strong e..... to both Jairus and the woman.
 - a. To the woman He said, **"Your f..... has h..... you. Go in p......"**
 - b. To Jairus He said **"Don' be a..... Just b....."**
- 6. **True or false:**
 - a. Jesus ordered the girl to get up.
 - b. Jesus spoke to the girl in the Greek of educated people.
 - c. Jesus told the girl to go and prepare a meal for her family.

C. Jesus' instructions

1. Why did Jesus give instructions that the event should be kept a secret?

2. The four miracles in chapter 5 revealed Jesus' power over four things, all beginning with the letter d: d....., d....., d..... and d..... .
3. Jesus had no interest in pure excitement. He wanted people to r..... who He is.
4. He is the d..... S..... of G..... .
5. After His resurrection, the m..... s..... may be t..... .

D. For further thought and discussion

1. As the gospel story develops, we learn more about the character of Jesus. As well as having power over death and disease, what else do we learn about His character and the way He used His authority?
2. Jesus did not seek to publicise His miracles because it was what they were pointing to that was the most important thing. Explain.
3. The risen Lord Jesus continued to work miracles through His followers in the *Book of Acts* and indeed He does so today. Do you think the same danger of focussing on the mighty

