

Mark 5:21-43  
A Tale of Two “Daughters”

Following the story of the demoniac we see two more cases that seem hopeless until Jesus engages with the lead characters. Some commentators refer to this as the Saint Jude chapter because in Catholicism, St Jude is the patron saint of hopeless causes. Today we encounter two situations where people are hopeless and desperate.

21 When Jesus had crossed over again in the boat to the other side, a large crowd gathered around Him; and so He stayed by the seashore. 22 One of the synagogue officials named Jairus came up, and on seeing Him, fell at His feet 23 and \*implored Him earnestly, saying, “My little daughter is at the point of death; please come and lay Your hands on her, so that she will get well and live.” 24 And He went off with him; and a large crowd was following Him and pressing in on Him.

25 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, she came up in the crowd behind Him and touched His cloak. 28 For she thought, “If I just touch His garments, I will get well.” 29 Immediately the flow of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction. 30 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 crowd 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.”

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?” 36 But Jesus, overhearing what was being spoken, said to the synagogue official, “Do not be afraid any longer, only believe.” 37 And He allowed no one to accompany Him, except Peter and James and John the brother of James. 38 They \*came to the house of the synagogue official; and He \*saw 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.”

40 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. 41 Taking the child by the hand, He \*said to her, “Talitha kum!” (which translated means, “Little girl, I say to you, get up!”). 42 Immediately the girl got up and began to walk, for she was twelve years old. And immediately they were completely astounded. 43 And He gave them strict orders that no one should know about this, and He said that something should be given her to eat.

Have you ever felt despair or been desperate? I’m sure you have at some point for some reason. What causes us to feel that way?

We are in over our heads and can’t handle what is going on. We feel out of control.

EX: 33 years ago Aug 26 – Sept 10<sup>th</sup> Linda’s father died; She flew back to the States with Beka (18 mths old); I was in France with the other four kids. Aug 31 Linda called with a report that Beka likely had JRA and it was uncertain how serious it might be – i.e. severe disability and blindness by age 12 or she grows out of it with some degree of damage remaining.

In my journal I wrote, “I feel like a screen test for the movie “Ordinary People” – a “normal happy family is struck by unforeseen disaster. This is the sort of thing that happens to other people.” There were a lot of unknowns, and the mind can race to the worst case scenario.

They came home Sept 5 and the 6<sup>th</sup> we took her to the top children’s hospital in Paris. She stays there four days and Linda is with her. I’m at the house with the other four kids getting them ready for the beginning of

the school year. The night of the 6<sup>th</sup> I wrote, “The pressure hasn’t let up for the past 11 days. Lord, I don’t know if I can take much more.”

I was feeling desperate, like Jairus, but he was in a more desperate situation. His daughter was sick and at the point of death.

The other desperate person in the story is the woman who had a hemorrhage for 12 years. In their desperation they both went to find Jesus.

These two storylines hit close to home because we can relate to them – facing the death of a loved one or dealing with a chronic health issue for which doctors are of no help.

You probably haven’t been in a storm where someone spoke and it got quiet, and you probably haven’t seen a wild demoniac freed from a legion of demons, but you know someone who has lost a loved one and you know people who are suffering from chronic health issues. Some of you have experienced one or both of those in your own life.

This passage hits close to home, and it gets very real for our own despair.

### What does despair look like?

v. 21 Jairus – a man of status and position. A ruler of a synagogue – “trustee or steward”. He was the exec administrator - a real insider. He has a name. But how desperate is he??

He seeks Jesus in broad daylight even as religious leaders are seeking to kill him. He is putting his own place in society on the line. He is desperate because he now finds himself starring in a Jewish version of “Ordinary People.” His happy comfortable life is struck by an unforeseen disaster – his little girl is at the point of death, and he has NO control over what will happen to her.

In the case of Jairus, his despair leads to humility. He is willing to risk public scorn and humiliation by coming to see Jesus and falling at his feet. That would have been a scandalous act for a synagogue official. He swallows his pride to seek the help of Jesus.

NOTE: Jesus sets out to go with Jairus and a large crowd is following. Jesus responds to his cry of faith and desperation.

Then we get an interlude or an interruption...

Now ‘a certain woman’ – no name (later church tradition has her named Bernice), but in the text she is simply a certain woman. She comes in to merely touch his cloak so that she might be healed. She wasn’t asking for a private audience with Jesus or even a public face to face. She just wanted to touch his garment to be healed. Such was her faith.

And IMMEDIATELY she was healed, and immediately Jesus perceived that power (dunamis) had gone forth from Him.

Jairus was an insider; she was an outsider.

A discharge of blood would mean that she is ceremonially unclean. Thus, she is set off from others and the synagogue. Like a leper, she had no place to go for community because she was ritually unclean as long as she had a hemorrhage. She had been to many doctors and spent all she had but only grew worse. Given the state of medical care in the first century, her condition was incurable. She was desperate and Jesus was her only hope.

She is willing to touch Jesus and make him unclean if she can be healed.

Jairus and the woman are worlds apart, but they are united by despair and the desire to engage with Jesus, who was their only hope.

\*\* Apply – the church is full of people who may have nothing in common except for their connection through Jesus. Just look around. In our unsaved state many of us would have had nothing to do with each other. We are ultimately united by our shared need for an hope in Jesus.

You may be here today or the past few weeks or even years and have not yet sensed how desperate your situation is apart from Jesus. Or you may feel the despair but aren't sure if Jesus can actually be your hope.

### THE DRAMA OF DESPAIR -

Jairus falls at the feet of Jesus and begs for his help to save his daughter.

He may have been among those plotting to kill Jesus, or at the very least, he knew of the plot.

If you were Jesus, how would you have responded?

Jesus went with him. No questions asked and no skeptical condemnation from Jesus, i.e. "So now you come to me. Where were you when I was teaching about the kingdom of God? You still want to kill me?"

Don't let the fact that you're not calling on Jesus when things are going well keep you from calling on Him when you get desperate. Jesus welcomes those who call on Him at any time. (Tommy Allen)

The trip to Jairus' house stopped when Jesus notices that the power had gone from Him. He doesn't just want to heal her, but also to bless her and know her.

She also came and fell at his feet with fear and trembling. She went and told Him the whole truth, and Jesus responded by commending her faith with a blessing of peace. "Go in peace" wasn't just a standard phrase. It was a message of hope that she'd not had for 12 years.

Jesus commends her and calls her 'daughter' – a term of welcome and acceptance. The passage starts with the daughter of Jairus, a little girl, but here we have the second daughter, this woman who trusts in Jesus to be healed. It is NOT FAITH IN FAITH. It is faith in Jesus.

Faith in faith or faith in yourself won't bring cleansing, healing, or forgiveness. The most important thing about faith is its object – Jesus.

\*\* This is where the popular view of "just have faith" misses the point of faith. It is the OBJECT OF OUR FAITH that is all important. There is a mindset of our culture that says, "All religions or faith traditions are equally valid. They are essentially the same." All religions, other than historic Biblical Christianity, are essentially the same. They are built on a system of works that we must do, teachings that we must follow, or statements that we must make in order to be saved or reach some level of nirvana, etc.

Christianity is different because it is built on Jesus and what He has done for us. In Christianity, God saves sinners. In all other religions sinner save themselves by following or doing enough of the right stuff with the hope of earning some sort of reward.

The woman touches Jesus, and she is made clean. In theory, he would be ceremonially unclean, but as the Son of the Most High, he is not.

Now back to Jairus. What must he be thinking? "Come on man. Don't stop. You've got to come heal my daughter."

Imagine that your child is dying and the only person that can heal her/him is stopping to talk to a nameless woman with no status, money, or connections. He must have been frustrated.

EX: I think about how frustrated I can be in the check out line when somebody is gabbing away with the cashier. Or when you really need to get somewhere and your child, parent, or spouse is doing a meet and greet with a total stranger. Some of you may have felt that way this morning as you were waiting for a parent, child or spouse to get in the car to come to church. Now multiply that by infinity and you might understand how Jairus was feeling.

V. 35 Jairus gets the bad news – "your daughter has died."

Do you feel the weight of this? How would you respond? It would have been so easy to be mad at Jesus and the woman.

Then the messenger says, "Why trouble the Teacher anymore?" That just confirms that Jairus was only there to see what Jesus could do for him.

When Jesus hears this, did he jump in with, "I knew you were just using me. See what you get. Your daughter died."

NO, no, no. We hear the common refrain, "Don't be afraid any longer, only believe."

Jairus shows that he did believe because he didn't try to stop Jesus from coming to his house. Jairus just saw what happened to the woman who touched the garment of Jesus, so he was encouraged to believe that Jesus could do for his daughter what he'd done for the woman.

We may be in despair, but we can have faith in knowing that what Jesus has done for others he CAN do for us. It is NOT A PROMISE that he will do it right now, but by faith we know that he will do it one day.

This gets to the heart of HOPE –(as one pastor put it)

Hope is a current peace in light of a future promise.

When the promise comes from God, it is a certain reality for the future.

Remember that all the healing miracles of Jesus are only temporary. All the people that he healed or even raised from the dead will die at some point.

Jesus goes to the home of Jairus and despite the scornful laughter, he raises his daughter from the dead. They laughed in scorn because they were hired mourners. They didn't really care.

Jesus goes in with the father and mother and raises her up. They were amazed and Jairus' despair is put to death.

Fast forward to when Jesus is facing death as he goes to the cross as one who is made sin, is made unclean so that he might make righteous those the Father had given him (Jn 17).

Jesus became desperate so that we might have ultimate hope.

The healing of the woman and the little girl are just small pictures of the ultimate healing that Jesus will bring.

This is no guarantee that he will solve all of our desperate situations in this life, but he has solved the greatest thing that ruins our lives – our sin.

He took our desperate sinful situation so that we can get his righteous standing before God.

Do you believe Him in that?

Are you willing to come to Jesus in your despair?

Come to the Table

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Discussion questions

- Have you ever been desperate?
- Was going to Jesus a top response?
- How is this passage instructive or comforting for us in our time of despair?
- What would you tell a friend who is facing a desperate situation?