

HOPE FOR THE HOPELESS

jkroberts_us@yahoo.com
www.pacolethillsbaptist.org

August 23, 2020

Mark 5:21-43

1. Determining the exact chronology of Jesus' ministry is not easy, and not everyone agrees on the exact order of events.
2. In this series of messages I am following, *A New Harmony of the Gospels*, by Arthur Markve, and he puts Matthew's account of this incident immediately after the passage we focused on last week.
3. We find Jesus in Galilee, at the seashore near Capernaum.
4. A great multitude of people were gathered around Him, following Him, and pressing in on Him.
5. The crowd included the critical and resentful scribes and Pharisees, the curious and uncommitted, and genuine seekers and disciples.
6. This passage raises more issues than we cover in one message, but I want to look at this incident under three headings.
 - a. The realities of life.
 - b. Hope for the hopeless.
 - c. Help for the helpless.

I. The realities of life.

A. I was going to call the section the inequities of life.

NOTE: In case you have not noticed life is not fair.

B. The first person we are introduced to is a man named Jarius.

1. He was a synagogue official—probably the chief official based on the language used.
2. He was a moral, God-fearing man who was respected by his community.
3. He was a family man with a wife and a **twelve-year** old daughter.

NOTE: Luke states that she was an only daughter.

4. More than likely she was daddy's little girl, a daughter that brought great joy into Jarius' life.

5. But one day she fell ill, and nobody could stop the progress of the illness until she appeared to be at the point of dying.

6. Jarius suddenly found his happy, well-ordered life interrupted by one of life's realities; the possibility or certainty of death.

C. The second person we encounter is a nameless, poor, unfortunate woman, who had been dealing with an ongoing physical problem for **twelve years**.

NOTE: Here we have two people who, for twelve years, lived in two different worlds.

1. She had a hemorrhage of blood that drained her physically and financially.
2. She had "endured much at the hands of many physicians...and was not helped at all, but rather had grown worse."
3. A Jewish woman's life revolved around her home, family, social circle, and religion.
4. A woman with an ongoing flow of blood was considered unclean, and anyone and anything she touched became unclean.
 - a. She could no longer live in her home with her husband and family.
 - b. She could no longer mix with her friends.
 - c. She could not attend the synagogue or enter the court of the women at the Temple.

5. Serious illness is another of life's realities; something we may escape, but someone we know and love will not.
- D. Where does one turn when death comes knocking, or we encounter another one of life's realities?

II. Hope for the hopeless.

A. Jarius turned to Jesus.

1. He came publically and openly in spite of the fact that many Jewish leaders were opposed to Jesus.
2. He came humbly and earnestly.
3. He came expectantly with the belief that Jesus could heal His daughter.

B. The woman came to Jesus as well.

1. She came after hearing about Jesus.
2. She came quietly and secretly.
3. She came desperately, but she had faith.

NOTE: Her thought was, "If I just touch (clutch) His garments, I will get well (be saved)."

C. There is hope for the hopeless because:

1. Jesus cares.

a. Lamentations 3:22-25

The Lord's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, for **His compassions never fail**. 23 They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. 24 "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I have hope in Him." 25 The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the person who seeks Him.

b. 1 Peter 5:6-7

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, 7 casting all your anxiety on Him, because **He cares for you**.

2. Jesus understands. Hebrews 4:14-16

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. 16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

3. Jesus will provide.

a. 1 Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and **God is faithful**, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

b. 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me — to keep me from exalting myself! 8 Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. 9 And He has said to me, "**My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.**" Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. 10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

III. Help for the helpless.

A. Jesus not only offers hope, but He also provides help in every circumstance and situation of life. Phil 4:10-14

But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned before, but you lacked opportunity. 11 Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. 12 I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. 13 **I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.**

B. Here Jesus demonstrated that His power to help is without limits.

C. In calling attention to the woman and what had happened to her Jesus provided Jarius with a visible demonstration of His power, and thus prepared him for the news he was about to receive.

1. Perhaps Jarius knew the woman.

2. What joy she must have felt when Jesus said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well (saved you); go in peace and be healed of your affliction."

D. Then, in the midst of this happy moment Jarius received a message from home, "Your daughter has died; why trouble the Teacher anymore?"

E. In spite of the message Jesus encouraged Jarius by saying to him, "Do not be afraid any longer, only believe (keep on believing), and she will be made well." Luke 5:50

NOTE: We have a choice; will it be fear or faith? Ps 46:1-3

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change and though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea; 3 though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains quake at its swelling pride. Selah.

F. Notice on wonderfully Jesus took control of the situation and worked His wonders.

G. He even made sure the girl got something to eat.

APPLICATION

1. Life's realities are unavoidable.

2. Whatever our situation there is hope and help in Jesus.

a. What are we to do if God does not respond the way we think He should?

b. G. Campbell Morgan had a good answer to this question when he wrote, "If He Who can, does not, than it is better so."

3. Another reality is that, "It is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment." Hebrews 9:27

4. The time to repent towards God and to embrace Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord is now, because no one knows the time or circumstances of their death.