**Press On – With Prayer** (March 1, 2017)

## **“When God Says Not Yet”**

## ***Mark 5:21-43 (NLT)***

21Jesus got into the boat again and went back to the other side of the lake, where a large crowd gathered around him on the shore. 22Then a leader of the local synagogue, whose name was Jairus, arrived. When he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet, 23pleading fervently with him. “My little daughter is dying,” he said. “Please come and lay your hands on her; heal her so she can live.”

24Jesus went with him, and all the people followed, crowding around him. 25A woman in the crowd had suffered for twelve years with constant bleeding. 26She had suffered a great deal from many doctors, and over the years she had spent everything she had to pay them, but she had gotten no better. In fact, she had gotten worse. 27She had heard about Jesus, so she came up behind him through the crowd and touched his robe. 28For she thought to herself, “If I can just touch his robe, I will be healed.” 29Immediately the bleeding stopped, and she could feel in her body that she had been healed of her terrible condition.

30Jesus realized at once that healing power had gone out from him, so he turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched my robe?”

31His disciples said to him, “Look at this crowd pressing around you. How can you ask, ‘Who touched me?’”

32But he kept on looking around to see who had done it. 33Then the frightened woman, trembling at the realization of what had happened to her, came and fell to her knees in front of him and told him what she had done. 34And he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace. Your suffering is over.”

35While he was still speaking to her, messengers arrived from the home of Jairus, the leader of the synagogue. They told him, “Your daughter is dead. There’s no use troubling the Teacher now.”

36But Jesus overheard them and said to Jairus, “Don’t be afraid. Just have faith.”

37Then Jesus stopped the crowd and wouldn’t let anyone go with him except Peter, James, and John (the brother of James). 38When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw much commotion and weeping and wailing. 39He went inside and asked, “Why all this commotion and weeping? The child isn’t dead; she’s only asleep.”

40The crowd laughed at him. But he made them all leave, and he took the girl’s father and mother and his three disciples into the room where the girl was lying. 41Holding her hand, he said to her, *“Talitha koum,”* which means “Little girl, get up!” 42And the girl, who was twelve years old, immediately stood up and walked around! They were overwhelmed and totally amazed. 43Jesus gave them strict orders not to tell anyone what had happened, and then he told them to give her something to eat.

**Notes from the Text:**

1. A theme in the Gospel of Mark is the genuine faith of the “ordinary people.” All through the book Mark gives us examples of average, every day, people, who display great faith and trust in God. Some of these individuals are not even named in the scripture, but their faith in Jesus is quite evident.

2. The section before us today has two of the “ordinary people” that displayed extraordinary faith. The first individual we meet is Jairus, a local religious leader, but more urgently, a concerned father who comes to Jesus as his last hope. We then meet an anonymous woman, who reaches out to Jesus in her desperation, and is healed. Observe the genuine faith of these two people, and perhaps we can learn from their example.

3. At the beginning of chapter five, Jesus crosses into a mainly Gentile region. This area was probably the “Decapolis,” an area of ten independently governed cities, with a mostly non-Jewish population. (Notice the pigs, and also the different command that Jesus gives the freed man.)

4. Jesus left the mainly Gentile area, and had probably returned to Capernaum, which had been His ministry base for some time. He was met by large crowds, because news about what Jesus had been doing had spread throughout the region.

5. A man named Jairus approached Jesus, and fell at His feet. Jairus was an official in the local synagogue, but was not a priest or religious professional. He had a severe problem, that only Jesus could solve. Jairus doesn’t approach Jesus in an intellectual manner, or in an official religious capacity, but as an agonized father, who believes that Jesus can help.

6. Jairus would have received great pressure from the religious authorities not to talk to Jesus. By this point, Jesus had already made some enemies in the local religious establishment, and was not popular among the religious hierarchy. But, Jairus was desperate to save his little daughter, so he went in faith to Jesus. But Jairus went to Jesus, begged for help, and Jesus said “yes,” or did He?

7. The woman in the crowd had suffered from Uterine bleeding for 12 years. this made her perpetually unclean, (Lev. 15:25-33) and a social outcast. She could not attend social gatherings, participate in any religious celebrations, and could not touch, or be touched, by anyone. She had also spent all of her money on doctors, and still had no hope.

8. The woman, in her desperation, reached out to touch Jesus. This action would have gotten her in trouble, for spreading her uncleanness. She believed that even touching the outer garment of Jesus could cure her of the terrible condition from which she had suffered for so long. She believed that just a physical contact with Jesus could do what all the “medical experts” of her day could not do.

9. When a Divine appointment caused a delay, Jairus must have been struggling greatly. The urgency of the situation was clear, his daughter was gravely ill and Jairus had gone to Jesus out of desperation, and Jesus had agreed to come without any discussion or delay. But now, Jesus had been sidetracked and distracted by a woman with a major problem, and what had appeared to be a “yes” answer had transformed into the answer of “not yet” or “wait.” Jairus had to stand on the side and watch as someone else got the miracle and as more precious time passed. And then, it got even worse….

10. Soon servants came from the house of Jairus with bad news, the little girl was dead. Jairus was still waiting on Jesus, still processing the “not yet” answer to his desperate prayers when he got the news that his daughter was gone. (5:35-36) While he stood by doing nothing, his daughter had died. While he was away out of the house, she passed away. And Jesus responds with “Don’t be afraid; just believe.”

11. Jesus continues to show great compassion with the words spoken to the parents of the formerly “dead” girl. He tells her parents to get her some food, as she has been sick for some time, and needs to eat to regain her strength. Plus, the reality of her taking food and drink will reinforce the reality of the miracle. This action will reassure everyone that she is not a ghost or only temporarily healed.

**Review Questions**

1. Where was Jesus at the beginning of chapter 5? (5:1-20) What had happened? What happened upon His return?

2. Jesus, Jairus, and Jostling (5:21-24)

What did Jesus find upon His return? How did Jairus approach Jesus? What urgent concern did he bring to Jesus?

3. “Who Touched Me,” and Jairus Waits (5:25-34)

What did Jesus notice? What was the desperate situation of the woman in the crowd? Why was her action, and Jesus’ reaction, startling? How did Jesus respond to her

4. Jesus, Jairus, and the “Dead” Daughter (5:35-43)

How did Jairus react to the delay? What was the situation when they arrived at the house of Jairus? What did Jesus say, and what did he command?

5. What did Jesus do, and say, that is a bit surprising? Why did He command silence, and food? How does this story, differ in ending from the first account at the start of the chapter?

**SO WHAT?**

6. Can you relate to any of these “ordinary people?” How did they reach out in desperation? How did they reach out in faith? How did Jesus respond?

\*7. Have you ever received the answer to prayer of “not yet,” and how did you know? Have you ever felt as if you were “on the sidelines” observing as someone else received the miracle for which you were hoping? How did you react/respond?

8. Notice the lack of condemning words from Jesus. He did not rebuke either person for their situations, but reached out to help each one. How can you exercise your faith, specifically, by reaching out to Jesus or other Christians? What can you do/say/pray?