

BRIARCLIFF CHURCH

Small Group Study Guide: Mark

Week of November 25 (Week 15)

Mark 5:21-43



Sermon Overview

This passage interweaves two accounts or stories from Jesus' life. The second story, that of a woman with a hemorrhage (verses 25-34) is sandwiched between the two parts of the first story, that of the raising of Jarius' daughter (verses 21- 25). Whenever two stories are set side by side in this way, it is safe to assume that the author wants us to make comparisons and draw contrasts as a way to learn from the two incidents.

As in 5:1-20, verses 21-43 continue to display the power of Jesus to overcome any obstacle: demonic possession (v. 2), chronic illness (v. 25) and even death (v. 23).

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Getting Started

1. List and discuss ways you can identify with the desperation of Jarius and his dying daughter and/or the woman with the chronic illness.

Starting with God

2. Consider the details of all the stories in Mark 4:35–5:43: (1) Jesus calms the storm, (2) Jesus heals a man with demons, (3) Jesus heals the chronically ill woman and (4) Jesus resurrects Jarius' daughter. What common themes do you see running through these four stories?
3. Reread verses 25-26. Now read Eugene Peterson's paraphrase of Mark 5:25-29 from *The Message* (below). What are the causes of the woman's suffering? What does this teach us about coming to Jesus by faith?

Mark 5:25-29, The Message

A woman who had suffered a condition of hemorrhaging for twelve years—a long succession of physicians had treated her, and treated her badly, taking all her money and leaving her worse off than before—had heard about Jesus. She slipped in from behind and touched his robe. She was thinking to herself, “If I can put a finger on his robe, I can get well.” The moment she did it, the flow of blood dried up. She could feel the change and knew her plague was over and done with.

4. Reread verses 24, 30-32. If a large crowd “pressed” around Jesus, why didn’t anyone else but the woman get Jesus’ healing power?

Living God’s Word

5. In verses 27-34, what are the weaknesses or flaws in the woman’s faith? How is this story a great encouragement for people with weak or flawed faith?
6. In verses 27-34, what does the woman “get right” in her faith?
7. In verses 21-25 and 35-43 how does Jairus show faith in Jesus?

Prayer

*Father God,
Thank you for your power over all things. Please speak the thrash of the gospel to the lies of my fears that I may believe you, trust you and find all joy in you.
Amen.*