

Mark 5:21-43

“The Tender Touch Of Jesus”

As we've mentioned several times so far throughout the gospel of Mark; Mark focuses more upon the *works* of Jesus than he does the *words* of Jesus. It's the gospel on the go. Jesus is always on the move in the gospel of Mark. Now Mark did pause there briefly in Ch 4 to share with us a # of parabolic messages that Christ taught in the midst of an incredibly long and exhausting day. However now we're right back into the throws of the miraculous, and we're in the middle of 4 miracles in particular that really demonstrate Christ's authority over every area imaginable to man. All of creation is subject to Him, and we might expect that after all we read in the gospel of John, *“All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.”* John 1:3 and If all things were made through Him it's only natural then that all things would be subject to Him. We read in the book of Colossians, *“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.”* Col 1:15-18 The point being that Christ is superior in status therefore He has authority over any thing and any one, all things have been made *subject* to Him.

and In these 4 miracles we find Him wielding that authority over every aspect of His creation. Now obviously I'm speaking *generally* not categorically as though we see Him command every bug or critter created. What I'm in reference to is the fact that we see Him wield His authority over nature, over the supernatural, over disease and over death itself. Each category and in every incident it's an area that's completely out of the control of man yet completely *under* the control of Christ. The wind and the waves, the demonic, and today we see disease and even death. Man has no control over those things, Jesus...does. Whether it's danger, the demonic, disease, or even death Christ is in control.

2 Things that are reinforced when we realize that. #1 That with God nothing will be impossible. Man's impossibilities simply become God's opportunities to show Himself strong reminding us of who *He* is and who *we're* not. It keeps us mindful of the fact that we serve a great and awesome God. As the Lord has said, *“Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?”* Jer 32:27 and When we see God move it reassures us, it comforts and encourages us, serves to increase our faith, helps us remember that God is still in control. The 2nd thing that's reinforced is the need to completely and utterly relinquish our lives into His hands, do I want to be in control of my life with my limited resources and ability to cope with life? Or do I want my life to be under the care and compassion of the Creator of all things Who has unlimited resources and has complete control over every thing and every circumstance that enters the equation of my life? Whether it's danger and seeming disaster, or the demonic, whether it deals with “incurable” disease or even death Christ is in control. I think

I'll get on board with Him and give my life to Him because it's in Him (and *only* in Him) that we find blessed assurance.

The passage that's before us definitely places on display the care and compassion, the tender touch of Jesus. The fact that we can come to Him, humble ourselves before Him, and trust Him in return to touch us and move in compassion toward/for us. If I were to find a particular passage of scripture that seemed to sorta sum up this entire passage I would pick **1 Peter 5:5-7** *“God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.’ Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”* Christ cares for you.

Vs21-24

You can sorta see the scene can't you? Jesus had just delivered the demoniac on the other side of the sea there in Galilee only to be anything but received by the people, instead He was vehemently rejected; they begged Him to leave. So as Jesus hops back in the boat and comes back to the other side (more than likely there in Capernaum) these people were eager to have Him, couldn't wait to receive something from Him or perhaps see some miraculous happening.

and As we've mentioned before from general perspective Jesus was enjoying tremendous popularity at this point in His ministry, it didn't matter where He went, with in moments (it seemed) hundreds if not thousands of people would immediately begin to gather *around* Him and press in *on* Him. and It was no different here; He was still on the sea shore when multitudes of people began to flock toward Him.

and As they did there was one man who began to press through the crowds, sort of shove people out of the way. We read that it was a man by the name of Jairus who was the ruler of the local synagogue. and As he made his way up *to* Him he fell down *before* Him and began to beg Him earnestly saying, “My little girl lies at the point of death, Jesus *please* come and lay Your hands upon her that she might be healed and live.”

Now this is a very interesting thing happening here, why? Well, from the very outset of this happening we read that Jairus was one of the rulers of the synagogue; many believe that he was *the* ruler (that is the chief overseer). Meaning that he was the one who appointed people to pray, who officiated the meetings, who reviewed the text of the one who may be there to share, he was the main man. How that translates to you and me is that he was a man who was incredibly important in that society, he was a man of prominence, a man of prestige, a man of power, of influence, was very wealthy, he was one of their admired religious leaders. and Here he comes to Jesus publicly, pleading with Him to come and lay His hands on his daughter that she might be healed. What's my point? Jairus was one of the religious leaders... You have to remember that by this point the religious leaders weren't *for* Jesus, they were *against* Him; they were plotting how to get rid of Him.

Now we don't know if he himself has been apart of those meetings, but he hadn't left that circle, was still identified with those who gave an overall suspicious (at best) report concerning Jesus. and Seeing as how his daughter is this ill it probably means that he's tried everything else and was seeking at all cost to avoid having to come to Jesus, he's taking a huge risk here. Could lose everything by coming to Jesus and seeking His help, but here's the deal, desperate times call for desperate measures. and I would imagine that for all the hustle and bustle in that crowd that by the time Jairus made it to the feet of Jesus that the crowd was riveted in silence. Here

was the leader of the synagogue on his face before *Jesus* begging Him for His help. So let's not perceive him at this point as this man of great faith (though we commend him for his humility and knowing where he should turn when push came to shove), but right he's a man in desperate need, he's no doubt heard of Jesus' miracles if not saw some of them himself. He may've been in the synagogue the day Jesus told the man with the withered hand to stretch it out. But when you find yourself in a desperate place...suddenly a position of power or prestige, fame or influence doesn't matter anymore.

When your life is spiraling out of control you don't care if you're rich, if you're poor, what it's going to take or what people might think. You need help (and listen) that's so often when people turn to Jesus. and If your family is involved (especially your child or children) you don't care if you lose your job, if people kick you out of their circle or reject you as a friend, you'll try anything. That's where Jairus is at; he's at the end of everything else, now he's turning to Jesus.

His life is typical of so many of us, it wasn't his love for Christ that brought him to Jesus, it was a desire to serve the Lord, it was his *need*, and the only glimmer of hope he could find was in Jesus. How often despair is the prelude to grace. But this is the tender touch of our Lord. He didn't say, "Well, well what is this? The other day you weren't so interested in Me, but now that you have a problem you expect Me to just jump your way..." He wasn't about kicking people when they were down, He was about seizing the opportunity to minister and make Himself real to anyone who would give Him the opportunity to. Matthew in quoting Isaiah concerning Christ said, "*A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench,*" **Matt 12:20** Speaking of that tender touch and delicate way in which He would handle bruised and broken lives. Jesus said, "*...the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.*" **John 6:37** It's hard for us to see it except often time in hindsight, but there is such a thing as blessed affliction. Because that's often the means that takes us and turns us toward Christ. and Jesus will take this little bit of faith that Jairus is exercising and bring huge dividends into his life as the result of it. One thing that this portion of scripture shows us is that it's not the *amount* of faith that one has that is of the utmost importance (though great faith is a great thing) but it's the *object* of one's faith that makes all the difference.

Jesus immediately went with Jairus and we read in Vs 24 that a great multitude followed Him and that they thronged Him. It was like an ambulance in a traffic jam, no doubt he was getting more and more desperate and frustrated by the minute. But then out of nowhere it was like gridlock, everything came to a raging halt.

Vs25-34

So we have this encounter sorta "sandwiched" in between the other encounter, the crowd is sorta inching along there and out of nowhere Jesus brings the whole parade to a complete stop. and He turns around with a penetrating gaze and begins peering into the crowd saying, "Who touched My clothes?" and Of course the disciples thinking they had the Lord on this one said, "Uh, Lord, people are thronging You, they're flooding in all over You, they're packed in all around You and You're asking, 'who touched Me?' there are all kinds of people touching You." But here's what I want you to see. There is a marked difference between simply being in the *presence* of Jesus, "bumping" into Jesus as it were, and purposefully reaching out in faith to

touch Jesus that a difference might be made in your life. and Jesus readily recognizes and knows the difference, and the latter will get His attention.

She did her best to remain anonymous, but Jesus stopped the show and called her out. Who was she? We don't even know, but here's what we do know; she'd had a flow of blood for 12 yrs, she'd been hemorrhaging for 12 straight yrs with out relief. According to Lev 15 that made her ceremonially unclean, anything she touched became unclean, anything she sat upon became unclean, *anyone* she touched became unclean. What that means to you and me is that she was absolutely isolated, completely outcast from society, barred from ever coming to the synagogue or to the temple, if she had a husband he'd left her by now. Always losing blood she was weak, and weary, she'd tried everything she could, no physician could help her, all they did ultimately was take all her money leaving her poor and destitute, and rather than helping to set her right all they did was cause her to suffer more.

Once again desperation is the prelude to grace, she'd tried *everything* this world had to offer to get her life right and in the end was no better only worse. Then she heard about Jesus, and demonstrated anything but *perfect* faith, but it was persistent faith nonetheless. She said to herself, "If I could just touch the hem of His garment I know I'll be made whole." So she fought her way through the crowd (it was moving at a snail's pace) and she reached out, grabbed His garment and *instantly* she felt a healing surge through her body and she was made whole. She probably stayed momentarily in that posture as the crowd re-engulfed her like a wave covering over her, hoping to slip away in obscurity and then Jesus stopped. "Who touched My clothes?" He turned around and kept staring into the crowd, His disciples began to chide Him a bit, but Jesus refused to relent. Jairus is probably growing more and more anxious by the moment not worried about who touched Him but about his daughter. But Jesus isn't moving.

Slowly, nervously this woman emerges and she falls down at the feet of Jesus and began to spill (notice) the *whole* truth. No doubt weeping she just began to pour out her heart to the Lord about everything that had gone on, her isolation, her desperation, her pain for the last 12 yrs and how she'd tried everything and nothing could help. and Jesus looks at her and says, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace and be healed of your affliction."

Few things we want to note here briefly. Why would Christ call her out like this? They both knew what had happened but yet He called her forward publicly and caused her to testify of what happened in her life personally. Why? # Of reasons, mainly for her own benefit, also (it would seem) for Jairus, Jesus is developing the faith of these 2, both of them have a few misguided notions but Jesus has accepted them both just as they are, but then He begins to work with them, bring proper perspective and greater understanding to them. and He does the same thing with you and me. When most people come to Christ they don't have a perfectly founded faith, they don't understand perhaps the fullness of the incarnation, the Trinity, atonement, faith Vs works, they don't know the scriptures. But Jesus will receive us right where we're at, faith that pleases God doesn't just belong to great theologians or the spiritually elite, God responds to the fact that your faith is in His Son. Then He begins to take us and teach us from that point.

Jesus wanted her to know that it wasn't His garment that healed her, there was no magic in His clothes, it was Him, it was her faith *in* Him that brought the healing. The power didn't come from His garment, it came from Him. So He wanted to bring her to that understanding. Another benefit for her would be a public release from her uncleanness, how could she really

verify that even though for the last 12 yrs she'd been unclean now suddenly she was healed? Jesus testified of her healing publicly, what she did she did in secret, but Jesus was rewarding her openly. Jesus also did this so that He could establish what? A personal relationship with her. He wasn't about to allow her to slip out and feel as though she had to avoid Him for fear of the fact that she "stole" a blessing from Him. He looked her in the eyes and said, "Daughter, (the only occurrence of Jesus referring to anyone as 'daughter' in the scriptures) your faith has made you well. Go *in peace* and be healed of your affliction." In other words Jesus wanted her to know this wasn't a fluke, her symptoms weren't addressed, the root problem was, she was *healed of her affliction*. But when He says, "Go in peace" He's referring to a spiritual healing He's worked in her as well. We have peace with God through Jesus Christ So this tender touch of Jesus worked both physical and spiritual healing *in* her as He ministered *to* her with compassion. Finally we should note that when she touched Him, *He* didn't become unclean, but rather *she* was made clean.

You guys, she's a picture of humanity, all of us stricken with the incurable diagnosis of sin. and It takes its toll on us, makes us unclean, it burdens us, frustrates us, isolates us. We try the doctor of entertainment, of success; we try doctor "feel good" or doctor religion, doctor self help. All to no avail they only leave us worse than we were before. It's not until we're ready to turn to the great Physician Jesus Christ that we're made whole, we don't defile Him, He cleanses us, we try all sorts of things trying to make things right. Thinking we can't come to Jesus till we clean up our act, but nothing works. Jesus is the one who cleanses our lives, brings us peace with God through the blood of His cross. and We can't leave this passage with out underscoring once again that when she fell down at His feet she told Him the *whole* truth.

You can't hold things back from Jesus; you've got to give it *all* to Him. You go to a doctor because you've got major chest pains and he says, "What seems to be the problem?" and You say, "Well I just can't seem to sleep at night." But don't tell him the whole truth; he won't do you any good. If we're to be forgiven of our sin and cleansed of *all* unrighteousness, we've got to come clean, we've got to confess to Him our sin, tell Him the whole truth that He might liberate you and set you free.

At this point we can't help but think, "Oh yeah, what about Jairus?" He's been chomping at the bit thinking, "Jesus, this is great and all but my daughter is dying, she's been this way for 12 yrs a few more minutes won't kill her, can we just go!" It must've tortured him to see Jesus take the time to minister to this woman, how often God isn't moving fast enough for us, but He's always right on time.

Vs35-36

His worst nightmare, Jesus delayed too long. Jesus is ministering to this woman and He over hears these people say to Jairus, "Hey, leave the Teacher alone, your daughter has died." and You can just see his face turn ashen as he's confronted by his worst fear, his daughter is gone. Jesus immediately turns to him, probably gets in close to him and says, "Do not be afraid; keep on believing." You see whatever little faith he had just evaporated, but Jesus exhorts him to continue to believe and not to be overcome by fear or what everyone else is telling him. Jesus is with him, hasn't changed His plans for him. But people are all, "Hey, Jesus can't help you, why are you fooling with Him." Same thing people say to you today, "Why are you going to church, why are you bothering with Jesus, there's nothing He can do for you." Jesus has just

demonstrated even for Jairus how faith can move the hand of God, “Now keep believing, don’t let that little seed of faith be snatched away.

Vs37-43

Few things here then we’ll wrap it up and wind it down. Why did Jesus only allow Peter, James and John to go with Him? Were they His inner group? Or were they His troublesome trio that He had to keep a close eye on? I suppose either is possible, could be for the establishing the event by the mouth of 2 or 3 witnesses I’m not sure.

But we note the weeping and wailing that was going on. In that day they had professional mourners that would be hired out and they would be on standby so to speak and when the individual passed it was sorta the way it was announced. They’d make this huge spectacle weeping and wailing and ripping their clothes and word would spread about the loss. The problem of course with hiring professionals was that they weren’t personally attached, so you see them mourning one minute and the next minute they’re mocking Jesus. The word “ridiculed” is in the imperfect tense meaning that they just kept on keeping on, just laughing Him to scorn, being hateful really.

Because Jesus said that she wasn’t dead, but sleeping. and They didn’t get what He was saying. He wasn’t speaking of death’s *reality* but death’s *finality* and even beyond that I believe that Jesus was giving us a bit of insight (even if it wasn’t His purpose specifically) about the security of children spiritually. People will occasionally ask what happens to children when they die if they haven’t made a conscious decision for Christ. and Of course we believe that they go to heaven, we know that David when he lost his son said that the child couldn’t come back to him, but that one day he would go to be with the child. and Whenever you find people in Christ who’ve died they’re never referred to as having died. But rather they’re said to be “asleep” in Jesus. Because in the NT, death is the separation of your spirit from God. People are said to be dead while they live because their sin has separated them from God. and If they don’t come to Christ then when they die physically they go on to *eternal* separation from God. But when someone goes to heaven they’re said only to be sleeping because even though their body “sleeps” their spirit is alive and well before the throne of God.

In the resurrection our spirit will be rejoined with our body, but until then the body “sleeps” but to be absent from the body, our spirit is immediately with the Lord. I say all that to say this, Jesus refers to her as “asleep” which indicates to me that she isn’t separated from God, her body sleeps (or has died) her spirit is with God. and So He says, “Why all the fuss, she’s not suffering, she’s not ‘dead.’” But the words Jesus speaks are spirit, so they don’t get it, they’re like, “Whatever Jesus, she’s dead.”

So Jesus prepares to do a work but here what you need to note. Before He does He gets rid of the ridiculers and unbelievers, He puts the mockers out. He separates Himself from unbelief, unbelief will hinder God from moving in your life. If you want to see God move, you’ve got to separate yourself from the mockers, get rid of those people in your life who ridicule Christ, you need Jesus to do a work in you. You want to be with people who’ll stand with you believe the promises of Jesus alongside of you. Those people who are mocking and making fun, gotta go.

Then Jesus turns to this little girl, takes her by the hand and says to her in Aramaic (probably her native tongue), “Little girl (or even more accurate ‘little lamb’) I (emphasis on who’s saying it) say to you, arise.” The tender touch of Jesus.

Now we don’t put God in a box but of the 3 occasions that we know of that Jesus raised the dead He always did it the same way, He spoke directly to the person. The bible says, “... *God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did;*” **Rom 4:17** We have here the word of God giving life to the dead. and Her mom and dad were overcome with great amazement, I bet they were. Jesus rewarded this little bit of faith he had in a radical way. It’s the object of your faith that’s critical, when it’s in Christ nothing will be impossible. Why did Jesus bring her back? It wasn’t for her sake, it was for her parent’s sake. Other times Jesus will have compassion on the other person and leave them in heaven, but He did this for their sake, and I’m sure they were never the same, no doubt devout followers of Christ.

But listen, let there be no excuse for any regarding why they can’t come to Christ, we see the full spectrum here. One who was rich, the other who was poor, one prominent, the other a relative nobody (we don’t even know her name) one respected, the other a social outcast. One came publicly, the other tried to reach Jesus privately, one had 12 yrs of joy about to be distinguished, the other 12 yrs agony that seemed hopeless to heal, one had a family, the other was alone, one Jesus responded to immediately, the other suffered delay, one Jesus ministered to publicly, the other privately.

But here’s the deal, they both found common ground, mercy and grace at the feet of Jesus. It doesn’t matter where you’ve been, what you’ve done or where you come from, if you’re willing to humble yourself, get on your face at the feet of Jesus and cast your cares upon Him, you’ll find that He cares for you, He’ll touch your life and lift you up, unbelief laughs at God’s word. Faith, lays hold of it and causes you to experiences the power of God in your life.

If God is dealing with you today and you’re ready to turn from your sin and trust in Jesus then the power of God unto eternal life can be yours today, resurrection power can be released into your life today, no longer dead in sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus by the grace of God. Flesh presses, but faith touches, Christ can always distinguish the difference between a jostling mob and the agonized touch of a needy soul. Jesus will turn His attention to you, dispense life, peace, and the forgiveness of sin to you, but you’ve got to cast yourself wholly before Him, just come before Him now, open your heart and believe on Him.

Prayer Points:

Jesus we’re so thankful for the powerful life lessons that You demonstrate for us. Be it danger, the demonic, disease, or even death You’re in control, may we learn to trust You more. Thank You for taking us as we are, sometimes our thoughts, our understanding is weak or even wrong, but You’re gentle and full of mercy and You lead us in the way everlasting. We love You, we praise You. May our lives bring glory to You.