

Mark 5:21-43 TWO for the PRICE of ONE

PRELIMS. We are having and **cursorly** look through Mark, not an in-depth study. *Jesus has just healed a demoniac. In this passage we have Jesus on His way to heal a child, when He is ‘interrupted’, and He heals someone else on the way - ‘**Two for the Price of One**’!

Jesus has just been told ‘Please **go** from here’! The pig farmers want Him away, He is not good for business! So Jesus listens to their plea, **crosses** back over the lake from where He had come! And the **opposite** happens ‘Please **come** here’!! It is amazing how the Son of God, perfect though he was, can have such **opposite and different effects** on people! The fact is: you **hate** Jesus, or you **love** Him!

It seems a crowd was **waiting** for Him, they had “gathered” [21] and a synagogue ruler, Jairus, **falls down** prostrate and “*implored Him earnestly... ‘My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live’*” [23]!

The synagogue was ruled by a board of elders who were responsible for **good order** at their meetings. Remember when the Apostles went into the synagogue in Antioch Pisidia, after the reading of the Law & Prophets, the elders came up to them and said “*Brothers, if you have any word of encouragement for the people, say it*” [Acts 13:15] Well, this man would be like one of these elders - so he was an **important man** in the church life of Israel. But he did not see himself as so important not to **fall down in worship** before someone greater than the Temple. This is the man who **welcomed** Christ with “*Come*”!

He must have been a **humble** man. He must have been a **holy** man! A holy man for he cared enough for his 12yr old daughter and was not ashamed to be **identified** as a believer in Jesus. You see, Jesus was a **controversial** Person and Jairus was not afraid to ‘show his hand’! It took **courage** drawn from **spiritual convictions** to show where you stood regarding X! **APP** In all ages and in all cultures, we need to ‘show our hand’ - where we stand regarding Jesus! There is no doubt but that Christ **divides**! Jesus said a very solemn thing “*Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not*

*come to bring peace, but a sword. I have come to set a man **against** his father, and a daughter **against** her mother, and a daughter-in-law **against** her mother-in-law” [Mat 10:34,35] * Now that does **not** mean Christ wants us to **fight/argue** etc. No! He means that His **teaching** divides human opinions! We are to “**pursue** what makes for **peace**” [Rom 14:19] Psalmist “*I am for **peace***” but in teaching truth, it may mean “***they are for war***” [Psa 120:7] We must do **everything** to avoid fighting “*if possible, as far as it depends on you, live **peaceably** with all men*” [Rom 12:18]*

So whatever repercussions would follow, this leader in the synagogue made it known where he stood in relation to Jesus. So he joined the group as they made their way to his house. As usual, a **big crowd!**

Among the crowd was an **insignificant** woman - ie, someone who was not very **noticeable!** She didn't have any badges, etc. She did not have particular ‘presence’! But she had a **health problem** for years (a haemorrhage). She had a “*discharge of blood*” [25] Now, the words here are the **very same** as in [Lev 15:19 (Septuagint)]. That meant she was **ceremonially unclean!** “*When a woman has a discharge and the discharge **in** her body is **blood**...whoever **touches** her shall be **unclean** until the evening*” [Lev 15:19]

She went to many doctors and went through all her savings in trying to be healed. In fact she grew **worse**. It is interesting to note that **Dr Luke** says that she **could not** be healed protecting his profession!!

So this woman having exhausted every means available, now invests in her **faith** and **conviction** of what she heard about Jesus. His **fame** had gone round the community. She found herself **believing** Jesus did have power to heal, for she **came** saying “*If I touch **even** His garment, I **will** be made well*” [29] She had faith **before** she touched His garment. It was her faith that **made** her come and touch.

She knew she had to **make contact** with X in order to be healed. A ‘touch’ would do it! A real touch. As in salvation, there has to be a **connection** to Jesus Christ. That connection, of course, is **faith**. There **is** a **real** connection in faith! Faith is a **leaning on X** and you

cannot lean on someone without touching them! If X can dwell **in** our **hearts by faith** [Eph 3:17], then faith is surely a real **means** of being **joined** together. This woman was joined to X by faith and that union between her and X meant there was interaction/fellowship. What was in one was easily **accessed** by the other - and vice-versa!

Thus *“she **felt** in her body that she was healed...And Jesus **perceived** that **power** had gone out from Him”* [29,30] This **transfer** from one to the other was a result of the **relationship\union** between them!

This **cohesion** is what **ought** to take place in every Xn’s life. Thus: *“from **His fullness** we have all **received**”*[John 1:16] We only receive something when it is **offered** to us! Christ is offered to us, and when we receive Him, the **fullness** that is in Him can be **accessed** by us! It is there for us to receive! *“Through Him we have **also obtained access by faith** into this **grace**”*[Rom 5:2] And thru Jesus we have direct access to God Himself *“through Him we both have **access in one Spirit to the Father**”*[Eph 3:12].

We mentioned recently the **secret working** of God’s Spirit! Well, here it is! A whole crowd - Jesus is at the centre - and it seems **no one knows** what is going on in the **hearts** of these two! Jesus cries *“Who **touched** My garments?”*[30] And the reply is **astonishment**. How can you possibly ask such a question when we are all milling around and touching each other? But as very often, Jesus is referring to the **spiritual** contact!! The disciples are not even tuned-in!

APP Jesus Christ is **very sensitive**! The **slightest** contact with Him and He is **totally aware** of it! If **you** are gaining the slightest **interest** in Him, remember He will become interested in you - and He will **challenge** you? *“Who touched My garments?”* It may be but the very **outer fringes** of Himself, but it is nevertheless a **movement towards** Him, and that stirs up a love within Christ’s own heart! And **He wants to know more about you!** He is interested in **you!** Think of Zacchaeus up the tree interested in Jesus - and Jesus **stops** and looks up. Jesus was **conscious** someone was more than normally interested - ie, someone **spiritually concerned** about his past life and wanted to make amends for it! Zacchaeus **responded** to Jesus’ invite!

Confession! That is something we do not hear much about today - but it is **vital**. Zacchaeus confessed to X and resolved by way of restitution to make amends according to the Law of Moses. Z did **not** do it **in order** to be saved - he was saved through faith in X! It was to demonstrate **obedience** to X and God he restored! And here, the woman “*came in **fear and trembling** and fell down before Him and **told Him the whole truth**”[33]. “*your **faith** has made you well*”[34]*

Well, that wonderful healing was the ‘free’ one on the way to heal Jairus’ daughter!! Jesus has always **time** for **spiritual** interruptions! There may have been some who now said ‘Oh, your **too late!** The child you were meant to save is now **dead!** ‘No point in going any further’ “*Why trouble the Teacher any further?*”[35]!

Note how **tender** Jesus is to the ‘bereaved’ father “*Do **not fear**, only believe*”[36] Jesus **must** have **told** him He would spare the child and therefore he was told to believe what He had promised. (This instruction is no encouragement to people to ‘just believe and whatever you want will be done’! We do **not know** what God’s plan and will is!! He has **not** informed us of His detailed ordained purpose in regarding the daily events and circumstances of life. We have to **trust** God that He will be **with** us in **all** circumstances. It is through much tribulation that we will enter the kingdom and we do **not** know what lies ahead for us. God’s promise is to take us to heaven and to **help** through whatever we meet with in this life. Believing with all our heart what God has not promised is folly and disconcerting.

Now the people were **genuinely upset** at the ‘death’ of the little girl. There was “*a **commotion and weeping***”[39]! So He tried to **comfort** them “*She is **not dead but sleeping***”[39] They **laughed** at Him!! Make no mistake about it - that would have **hurt** Jesus.

Mat+Luke **confirm** that she had **died!** What is death? It is the **separation** of soul from body! Thus: “*her **spirit returned***”[L 8:55] ***Why** did Jesus **forbid** them to tell no one? [43] different from the Demonic? Because Jairus lived in **Galilee** where there were so many Phars/Scribes/spies. Jesus did not want to die before His appointed time! ***Onward care** “*Give her something to eat*”![43]