

## **Sermon Series: Getting to Know Jesus**

**Subject: Looking In The Mirror Of Your Faith**

**Scripture: Mark 5:21-43**

**Sermon No. 11**

### **Introduction**

How do you respond to the difficult and hard times in your life? Do you respond in faith... or does your world fall apart? Do you remain calm... or do you find yourself all tied up in knots? Do you blame other people... or do you look to the Lord for the answers? The way you and I respond to difficult and tough times, reveals a lot about our faith.

In these two stories there are four different faith responses by the people Jesus met on this particular day. These faith responses will become a mirror for us to evaluate the strength of our faith in God.

- 1. THE REACTION OF FAITH BECAUSE OF NEED.**
- 2. THE REACTION OF FAITH THAT IS INADEQUATE.**
- 3. THE REACTION OF FAITH THAT ENABLES.**
- 4. THE REACTION OF FAITH THAT BLESSES.**

#### **I. THE REACTION OF FAITH BECAUSE OF NEED.**

**1. Jairus Faith Was Based Upon the Need of His Little Girl (21-24)** 21 When Jesus was passed over by ship, much people gathered unto him: and he was nigh unto the sea. 22 And behold, there cometh one of the rulers of the synagogue, Larius by name; and when he saw him, he fell at his feet. 23 And besought him greatly, saying, My little daughter lieth at the point of death: I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live. 24 And Jesus went with him; and much people followed him, and thronged him.

Jairus is an important man in this town. He's a ruler in the synagogue, holding a very prominent position as one of the leading elders in the nation of Israel.

But Jairus had a huge personal problem. His daughter had contracted an unknown illness, was dying from that illness, and she was only 12 years old! Her whole life was just starting to open up, but she was suffering and threatened by this disease. And seeing his little girl suffering was tearing Jairus' heart out.

Because of his prominent place in Jewish society, we know he had access to the best medical care available. But none of that was working. His little girl was dying, and he was powerless to do anything about it. Jesus was his last hope. He did the only other thing he could do he came to Jesus for help, on behalf of his daughter. His faith was on behalf of someone else.

**2. The Woman's Faith Was Based Upon Personal need. (Mark 5:25-34).** *A certain woman who had an issue of blood twelve years, 26 And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse, 27 When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment. 28 For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole. 29 And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague. 30 And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes? 31 And his disciples said unto him, Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me? 32 And he looked round about to see her that had done this thing. 33 But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth. 34 And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague. *This woman's faith is not based on someone else's need.**

Her faith comes from personal need. Her situation was bleak. She was in a lot of physical pain. She had spent her life savings on various doctors. But never received healing. In fact, things only got worse. But then she heard about Jesus.

She came to Jesus because she had faith in Him. She believed that Jesus was the only person who could help her. Her faith was so strong that she believed all she had to do was touch the hem of His garment and she would be healed. And that's exactly what happened.

When tough times come into your life and you feel a real sense of inadequacy in your own abilities, what do you do? Do you reach out to God in faith, or do you give up, or do you rely on your own strength? Regardless if it's a personal need or the need of someone else... turning to Jesus in times of difficulty and stress is a true sign of a faith that is real and pleasing to God.

**II. THE REACTION OF FAITH THAT IS INADEQUATE (MARK 5:30-32).** 30 And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes? 31 And his disciples said unto him, Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me? 32 And he looked round about to see her that had done this thing.

There are a lot of Christian people who claim to have faith in God, but when difficult times come it is evident that what they have is a cheap imitation of faith. There are three examples of inadequate faith in this section. The first one starts in verse 30...

**1. The Reaction of the Disciples Was Inadequate Faith (30-31).** 30 And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes? 31 And his disciples said unto him, Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me?

When the woman pressed through the crowds and touched Jesus' cloak, Jesus felt healing power go out from Him. He realized that something special had just taken place. So He asked, "Who touched My clothes?"

But His disciples were too caught up in the hustle and bustle of the crowds to understand what Jesus understood. Now there's some reasons for that... you see, Jesus was in touch

with God, while the disciples were only in touch with their circumstances. Jesus saw "the individual woman", while the disciples only saw the crowd. That contributed to their inadequate faith.

**2. The Reaction of Jairus' Servants Was Inadequate Faith Based on What They Could See (Mark 5:35-36).** While he yet spake, there came from the ruler of the synagogue's house certain which said, Thy daughter is dead: why troublest thou the Master any further? 36 As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe.

The faith of these servants was inadequate because they thought that once the girl had died there was no longer a need to bother Jesus. Their faith was only in what they could see. But Jesus told Jairus to believe in what could be, if Jesus intervened.

**3. The Reaction of the Professional Mourners Was Inadequate Faith Because of Pride. (Mark 5:38-40).** And he cometh to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and seeth the tumult, and them that wept and wailed greatly.

In that day the wealthy used to hire professional mourners to come in and mourn with the family when a loved one died. These people were in the grief business, and so they believed they knew everything there was to know about death.

So, when Jesus told them that the girl was only asleep, they quit crying and began laughing in ridicule. Instead of faith, the mourners demonstrated pride. And that's where they really messed up. Because faith is always hindered by pride. These mourners had closed their minds to a deeper spiritual truth because all they had experience they thought they knew it all. But in reality, they were limited because their experience didn't include Jesus.

Guard against your pride in difficult times. Pride will keep you from seeing what can be with God's help. But that requires a strong faith in the power of Jesus Christ, not a strong faith in the power of yourself.

**III. THE REACTION OF FAITH THAT ENABLE (37).** He suffered no man to follow him, save Peter, and James, and John the brother of James.

Jesus only took certain disciples with Him to Jairus' house. He only allowed Peter, James and John to stay with Him in the room. Was Jesus showing favoritism to these three disciples? "No, He wasn't."

Jesus needed men around Him who were open to God's working and supportive of His mission. That's why he put the professional mocking mourners out of the room before he raised up the little girl. In some cases certain people become a hindrance to have around.

Rest assured, when there is expectancy for what God can do, God moves mightily. But where there is unbelief and doubt, God refuses to move. Chapter six of Mark deals with unbelief of the people in his home town. Mark writes in 6:5 **And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them.** No significant mighty works could be done in His home town, because those people lacked faith.

When we face hard and difficult times in our life, our faith may become weak. This causes us to feel that God doesn't care about us anymore. Let me assure you that God never turns his back on you or leaves you.

Our faith enables us to trust and believe in God, no matter what the circumstances. Hard and difficult circumstance is God's way of preparing us for something better, and He knows how much we can undergo to accomplish His plan for our life.

**IV. THE REACTION OF FAITH THAT BLESSES (MARK 5:40B-42).** He took the father and mother of the damsel, and them that were him, and entereth in where the

damsel was lying. 41 And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, Talitha cuni; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise. 42 And straightway the damsel arose, and walked; for she was of the age of twelve years. And they were astonished with a great astonishment.

A fourth kind of faith response to our difficult circumstances is faith that blesses. Our response of faith in difficult times can be a blessing to others. That was the case of Jairus.

I don't think we take into consideration enough, how our faith will affect someone else. But if our faith in God is what it should be, we can give a spiritual blessing, or encouragement, to other people during the difficult times of our life.

**Illustration:** Many of you know that the Niagara River drops about 180 feet straight down at the American and Horseshoe Falls. Just before the falls, there are very violent, and turbulent rapids. But farther upstream, the river flows more gently, and boats are able to navigate.

But just before the River empties into the Niagara, a pedestrian walkway goes across the river. Posted on this bridge is a warning sign for all boaters: "Do you have an anchor?" followed by, "Do you know how to use it?"

## CONCLUSION

Friends, faith is our anchor. It comes to us as a gift from God. The question is, do you know how to use it to avoid spiritual disaster?

May I encourage you to pray this simple prayer each morning when you awake: "Lord, please give me all the faith I need to accomplish what you want me to do today."