

Jesus Is The Great Physician

Mark 5:21-43

Introduction: 1) Jesus! What A Friend for Sinners

Jesus! what a friend for sinners!
 Jesus! lover of my soul;
 Friends may fail me, foes assail me,
 He, my Savior, makes me whole.

Jesus! what a strength in weakness!
 Let me hide myself in Him.
 Tempted, tried, and sometimes failing,
 He, my strength, my victory wins.

Jesus! what a help in sorrow!
 While the billows over me roll,
 Even when my heart is breaking,
 He, my comfort, helps my soul.

Jesus! what a guide and keeper!
 While the tempest still is high,
 Storms about me, night o'ertakes me,
 He, my pilot, hears my cry.

Jesus! I do now receive Him,
 More than all in Him I find.
 He hath granted me forgiveness,
 I am His, and He is mine.

Hallelujah! what a Savior!
 Hallelujah! what a Friend!
 Saving, helping, keeping, loving,
 He is with me to the end.

2) Mark 5 provides what could be called "3 cases of incurables."

- It is Jesus who proves He is Lord over demons, disease and even death!
- Further, we see our Lord is the man's Savior (5:1-20), the woman's Savior (5:24-34) and the child's Savior (5:35-43).

Transition: Yes, he is indeed a friend of sinners and the healer of the hurting!

I. Jesus hears the cries of the distressed. 5:21-24

- This text has what we call a “sandwich structure.” Jarius (5:21-24) – The suffering woman (5:24-34) – Jarius (5:35-43). It is two stories wrapped up in one big story. The purpose is to make comparisons and draw contrast.
- We will see a number of common themes in these 2 stories that are also found in the stories of Jesus calming the sea (4:35-41) and His healing of the demon-possessed (5:1-20).
- 2 immediately stand out: 1) Jesus cares for those in trouble and 2) Jesus is the omnipotent God! He has authority over what is impossible for you and me. Nature, demons, diseases and even death surrender completely and immediately to His sovereign authority. **Transition:** Note 2 important truths when we find ourselves in distress.

1) We can come to Jesus with our request. 5:21-23

- V. 21: Great crowds still follow! (3:7, 8, 9, 20, 32: 4:1 (2X), 36).
- V. 22: Ruler of synagogue – like an elder, the official responsible for supervising the building and services. A man of distinction, respect and standing. And yet he fell at Jesus’ feet (v. 22, “shows great humility”) and he “implored him earnestly” (v.23). Basically he begged Jesus on his knees with his face to the ground! His little girl is dying, and in spite of the growing opposition of the religious establishment, he bucks the trend and comes to the only one He believes can save her. Luke 8:42 informs us she is his only daughter.

2) We must come to Jesus in faith. 5:23-24

- The man Jarius came to Jesus because he believed Jesus could do for him what no one else could! His humble faith is a model we all should emulate.

- His request was straight forward and to the point delivered in dependency and urgency (v. 23).
- Our Lord's response is simple and immediate (v.24): He went with him. Well, it was almost immediate!

II. Jesus responds to the pain of the diseased. 5:24-34

- What occurs in vs. 24-43 cannot be fully appreciated apart from the urgency of the situation, and the Hebrew laws concerning ceremonial uncleanness.
- Note 3 crucial texts: Leviticus 15:25-30; 22:1-9 and Numbers 5:1-4.
- Note: Jesus is not too busy in one task to stop and help someone else who is hurting, especially one who is determined, humble and hopeful (has faith) in Him.

1) We can approach Jesus in our suffering. 5:24-27

- Crowd is still there! Bedlam reigns (v. 24).
- V. 25-26: suddenly a woman appears. Note: 1) discharge of blood (she is ceremonially unclean and forbidden access to the temple); 2) sick for 12 long years; she is probably unmarried and childless, 2 additional curses to her pitiful state. 3) suffered much from many physicians (note Luke 8:43 for a fellow doctor's take!); 4) spent all she had; 5) she was not better; 6) she grew worse.
- V. 27: she heard about this miracle worker, this magic man named Jesus. Possibly with pagan superstition, she believed that if she could just touch Him or His clothing she could be healed. Her theology may be weak but her faith is strong!

2) We must approach Jesus in faith. 5:28-34

- Though hundreds thronged about Him, only one woman connected with Him in faith (v. 28). Spiritually and physically desperate, she did the unthinkable, incredible and unacceptable touching Him (v. 27) and doing so in faith (v. 28).
- V. 29: “Immediately” she is healed and she knew it! She felt it! What unbelievable joy she must have experienced. Just imagine, she was well and whole for the first time in 12 years. The amazing grace of God thru Christ had healed her body just like it heals our soul when we place our faith in Him.
- V. 30: Jesus “immediately” perceives a loss of power. Why? Because He had taken on her uncleanness and sickness and imparted to her His purity and health! The Suffering Servant of Isaiah 53 strikes again! (cf. esp. 53:3-4).
- V. 30-32: Jesus looks for the one who touched Him in faith!
- V. 33: The woman fell down and confesses everything (cf. 5:6, 22).
- V. 34: Jesus welcomes her into the kingdom, commends her faith, and blesses her with “shalom.” She has experienced salvation both physically and spiritually.

III. Jesus has authority over the power of death. 5:35-43

- We now return to Jarius, who by now, must be beside himself in anxiety and frustration. His daughter is at death’s door. This woman has been sick for 12 years! She could have waited another 30 minutes!
- Unlike Nicodemus who came at night under the shadow of darkness, he came in daylight, humble and begging. He demanded nothing and look where it got him.
- Note the comparison with Jarius and the nameless woman before we go on: 1) he/she knew only Jesus could help them; 2) he/she knew they were unworthy; 3) he/she fell down and 4) he/she believe Jesus could heal. She got what she wanted.

Transition: However, things for Jarius truly go from bad to worse. Still, ...

1) We can believe in Jesus in spite of the circumstances. 5:35-36

- Jesus is interrupted with bad news. She is dead. Hope is suddenly gone and lost (v. 35).
- Jesus then responds to the bad news with a challenge (v. 36).

The tense of the 2 verbs is instructive:

- Do not fear (*phobos*) is a pre. imp.
- Only believe (*monon pisteue*) is a pre. imp.

- Could be translated “stop fearing, only believe.”
- Despite all appearances (like the disciples in the storm!) I am neither distracted nor disinterested in your need. I work in my time not yours (or others!). I will not be hurried nor dictated to. Believe and watch what I do.

2) We can believe in Jesus regardless of the skeptics. 5:37-40

- V. 37: Takes the inner circle of Peter, James and John (note the order). This is the first time He separates them from the others.
- V. 38: Professional mourners had arrived to accompany the family in their grief with their “loud wailing.” They paid them to do this in that day. It would have been quite a scene.
- V. 39-40: Jesus rebukes them with a shocking statement (v. 39) that only invites their ridicule (v. 40).
- V. 40: His response: He kicks them out of the house (!) and goes in with just the 3 disciples and the mom and dad to see the little girl.
- **Application:** Hard core realists who breathe the air of skepticism will always be with us. They will mock our faith in a crucified Jew and ridicule our trust in a

God we cannot see. They will laugh at your love for the Savior who has cleansed you of sin's defilement and given you spiritual life by His atoning work on the cross.

- Nevertheless, believe. Have faith. Not faith in faith which is spiritual nonsense, but faith in the omnipotent sovereign Lord Jesus whose authority and power is absolute and knows no rival.

3) We can believe in Jesus because He can be trusted. 5:41-43

- Jesus has moved the mom and dad and the disciples into the room where the little girl is lying (v. 40).
- Then, he again does the unthinkable in that culture, a taboo of enormous magnitude: He touches the dead body of the little girl! (v. 41)
- With a gentle touch and loving words (v. 41), as mom and dad look on thru tears he says, "little girl, I say to you arise." Lit. it is, "Little lamb, arise." We would say today, "sweetheart, it is time to get up."
- V. 42 The response, by now (!), should not surprise us!
 - Immediately she got up (obeying the Master).
 - She walked. Implied "she kept walking all around."
 - She was 12! (cf. v. 25)
 - Immediately they were overcome. Wouldn't you be too?
- V. 43 He gave a command to keep this quiet (for Messianic reasons). He said give her something to eat (for practical reasons). This little lady had been completely restored to full health. Like her sister in vs. 24-34, her gender, namelessness, uncleanness and impossible condition did not stop her from

experiencing the healing touch of the great physician. Yes, we can believe in Jesus no matter what. Hallelujah, what a Savior!

5 Questions We Always Ask of Every Text

1) What does this text teach me about God?

- God honors the faith of all who come to Him thru Jesus. Social status, gender or any other distinction of this sort matters not one wit to him.
- God cares for the demon-possessed, the man of distinction, the outcast woman and the little girl who is powerless. God truly loves the world of people without distinction (John 3:16).

2) What does this text teach me about sinful humanity?

- Disease and death are realities we must face in our fallen and sinful world.
- Ours is a world filled with pain and sorrow which desperately needs the touch and grace of God mediated thru Jesus.

3) What does this text teach me about Jesus Christ?

- Jesus cares for the hurting.
- Jesus does His work on His timetable not ours.
- When Jesus touches the unclean they become clean as He takes on their uncleanness in Himself.
- Jesus gives healing and life to those who trust Him as He takes on our diseases and dies our death (Isaiah 53). He willingly loses/gives up power for those who have no power.

4) What does God want me to know?

- We can come to Jesus with our request no matter who we are or what we have done.
- We must come to Jesus in faith, believing and not fearing (cf. 6:5-6).

- God honors imperfect faith from a sincere heart when the object of that faith is Jesus.

5) What does God want me to do?

- God wants you to come to Him with any and every request.
- God wants you to trust Him regardless of the circumstances or situation. Why? Because He can be trusted to heal our diseases and conquer the great enemy called death. How do we know? Look to the cross and an empty tomb! Hallelujah! What a Savior!