

Nov 18th 2007: Series on Mark: 5:21-6:6 Faith on Display

Heb 11:6 “*Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that he exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.*”

The three stories in Mark’s Gospel.....looking at...proclaim the truth of that statement
It shows people coming to Jesus....**The extent** of their faith in Him**And** the result....interaction

- **The first...5:21f.....The story of Jairus**

When Jesus landed.....crowd was great.....(gathered on top of Him)

And yet somehow Jairus.....*Perhaps by virtue of his standing*.....manages to get to Jesus
....falls at His feet.....and pleads.....**THIS is Earnest Seeking**

- **His statement of faith is impressive.....**It allows for no doubt

.v23 *My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live*

Jairus is one of the synagogue rulers.....He is in charge of a Jewish place of Worship
Part of the establishment.....against Jesus

He is an Important Person.....power...authority....influence

He is a Religious Person

He is a Wealthy Person

Normally a man such as Jairus.....would not approach Jesus.....**except** at the door of synagogue
He would be the last person....expect to see.....in a crowd....face down at the feet of Jesus

- **But Jairus was also a desperate Person**

His little girl.....just 12 years old.....was at the point of death

We can surmise that he and his wife.....had tried every avenue....that his position and wealth could open
They had got to the point where they had just about given up hope

Even at that moment.....the mother was at home by her dying daughter’s bedside

They had already booked.....and no doubt paid for....a group of professional mourners....to

Yet they had heard about Jesus.....and something within his heart.....**compelled** Jairus to seek Him out
That something was faith.....born of desperation

However once he started on that journey of faith.....It was far from straightforward
Jesus immediately went with Him.....as did this huge crowd surging along behind

But in that crowd was yet another desperate person who reached out to Jesus
→and brought about the delay.....that made his situation...so much worse

- We've just read the story.....
- How this woman subject to bleeding for 12 yrs....also had faith in Jesus

She said to herself *"If I just touch His clothes, I will be healed."* And she Did...and She Was !!!
 And altho Jesus had not initiated.....HE knew it had happened....

And Jesus stopped.....

- Can you imagine how Jairus felt at this point ??

I see him scurrying on ahead.....His mind racing....heart churning.....
 Suddenly realising that Jesus...

He turns and theres Jesus....addressing some incident in the crowd
 Jairus' daughter is dying.....She could already be dead.....And Jesus is talking to some wretched ..

(Supermarket line exp...)

- But what of this woman....who Jesus heals....Whose faith He commends....
 Whom He warmly calls.....Daughter ?????

Well she couldn't be more different to Jairus

He is Important.....She is totally unimportant.....On account of her illness....an outcast
 Rejected by society.....A woman....But also a woman on her own

He is Religious.....she ..Religious Reject.....No doubt...a belief in God...But no way of practicing

He is wealthy	She is Poverty StrickenAll she had had gone to the doctors....She had pursued any and every avenue open to her..... She had used all she had...worse rather than better
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But This They had in common
 They were both desperate.....

- She after 12 years of suffering....and getting nowhere
 Hewith his little girl who had graced his life for 12years..and now about to lose her desperate....for the Lord's intervention
- And the wonderful thing.....the Lord responded to both of them
 One was just so important....so influentialso wealthy.....And he came right to up the Lord
 So open in his declaration of Faith

The other was consider worthless.....An embarrassment upon Society
A woman on her own to be avoided.....Nothing to offer.....Nothing to give
Sneaking up behind Jesus to touch.....Hoping not to be discover
So weak and hidden....in her tentative declaration of Faith

And Jesus was there for them both.....as He is for you.....whoever you are.....There for me
(ROY)

- **That didn't mean that their faith journey was easy**.....straightforward
The woman needed to declare herself.....To stand and own her faith
- **For Jairus it was even worse**
He wanted instant attention.....Yet Jesus stopped to talk to some outcast
- **And then.....came the news**.....Your daughter is dead.....
You're needed at home.....The mourners are already on the job....you need to arrange a funeral
- **What seemed like an answer just minutes before....was now a waste of effort**
Yet Jesus turns to Jairus and says: Don't fear; just go on believing

And there are times when it seems.....Our faith received the answer.....**only** to have it snatched away
And Jesus says.....Don't fear.....Just go on believing

- **And so it is.....**that as we read on....we come to this delightful little family scene
Just the parents.....Peter, James and John.....Jesus and the dead little girl
Whose hand Jesus took.....and said to her in the Aramaic tongue.....everyday language
Little girl, I say to you, get up....And the girl was raised from the dead

The Awesome power of Jesus: Stills the storm.....Casts out 2,000 demons....Overcomes death

This is the Jesus who Lives...Whose presence is in this place...Who offers to all who exercise faith in Him
A victory.....through the cross.....over the second death.....A death which is eternal

For He gives us life....that grows and grows.....making death the doorway into eternal life

- **But what of the third story about Faith**
Well that is a sad one.....found in 6:1-6

It happened in the synagogue in Nazareth.....the place where He grew up

Once again His teaching amazed everyone...
Once again it was to those who knew & spoke of His miracles

But they refused to know Him....as more than the carpenter

- **Like many in our world today....** They refused to accept their need of His power
They were self sufficient.....and instead of turning towards Him.....they turned against Him
For they took offence at Him

Verse 5-6 reads.....He hid His power from them.....and walked away

No one can afford for that to happen.....Whether we already know Him.....
But have become careless.....Weak in our faith

- **Or have yet to really seek His face as Saviour**
- **Whether we are conscious of great needs.....Or doing nicely with no real needs**

We all need Him.....All need to exercise faith in Him.....All need to say....Here I am....I believe
Fill my life with your power.....Use me in your service