

“All Walks of Life are Welcome to Encounter Jesus”

Mark 5.21-43

11.14.21

We have been looking at various encounters with Jesus. When people have a true encounter with Jesus their lives are never the same. So far we have seen encounters with many outcasts. We have seen a leper, a blind man, a demon possessed man, a tax collector, a widow burying her only son.

Is Jesus only interested in reaching the outcasts? What about people who are well liked and have a good reputation in society? Does He care about them? Or does He only care about those who are on the margins of society?

This morning we are going to answer that question by seeing two encounters. One is with a respectable man in society and the other with a woman considered an outcast. We are looking at both of them because their stories are intertwined.

Mark 5:21–43 (ESV) Page 840 in the Bibles under the chairs.

²¹ And when Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered about him, and he was beside the sea. ²² Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, and seeing him, he fell at his feet ²³ and implored him earnestly, saying, “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.” ²⁴ And he went with him. And a great crowd followed him and thronged about him. ²⁵ And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, ²⁶ and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. ²⁷ She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. ²⁸ For she said, “If I touch even his garments, I will be made well.” ²⁹ And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. ³⁰ And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone out from

him, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my garments?"³¹ And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, 'Who touched me?' "³² And he looked around to see who had done it.³³ But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before him and told him the whole truth.³⁴ And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."³⁵ While he was still speaking, there came from the ruler's house some who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?"³⁶ But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe."³⁷ And he allowed no one to follow him except Peter and James and John the brother of James.³⁸ They came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and Jesus saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly.³⁹ And when he had entered, he said to them, "Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping."⁴⁰ And they laughed at him. But he put them all outside and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him and went in where the child was.⁴¹ Taking her by the hand he said to her, "Talitha cumi," which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise."⁴² And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement.⁴³ And he strictly charged them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

After Jesus healed the demon possessed man, the townspeople pleaded with Him to leave. Jesus homered their request and got into the boat and headed back to the west side of the Sea of Galilee. Most likely he came back to Capernaum. Before his boat made land, a crowd saw Him on the sea coming to their town. They were waiting for Jesus to arrive. Once He did, they surrounded Him. As this crowd was around Jesus an encounter occurred.

Jesus encounters Jairus.

Verse 22, "Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, and seeing him, he fell at his feet²³ and implored him earnestly, saying, "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.”²⁴ And he went with him. And a great crowd followed him and thronged about him.”

The leper that Jesus healed was not identified. The blind man that Jesus healed was not identified. The demon possessed man that Jesus healed was not identified. Here Mark identifies this man. He is Jairus who was a ruler of the local synagogue.

Jairus would be well known, greatly respected, financially well off. He was an important person in the community.

He was a lay person whose responsibilities were administrative, not priestly, and involved looking after the building and supervising the worship. Jairus would have friends who were Jewish priests and Pharisees.

This highly respected, Jewish leader knelt before Jesus. He was desperate. He didn't care about his reputation. The health of his 12 year old daughter was his greatest priority.

What did Jairus know about Jesus that enabled him to trust Jesus to heal his dying girl? Had Jesus previously spoken in the synagogue where he served? Did Jairus hear about Jesus healing others? Had Jairus witnessed Jesus healing others?

Mark does not tell us. We do know that Jairus was so confident that Jesus was capable of healing his daughter that he bowed his knee before Jesus and pleaded for the Lord to lay His hands on her so that she would be healed.

Mark does not record if or what Jesus said to Jairus. He just wrote “And he went with him. And a great crowd followed him and thronged about him.” (Mark 5:24).

As Jesus walked with Jairus, a large crowd pressed in or squashed against Jesus. As He was being pressed on all sides. Verse 25, “And there was a woman who had had a

discharge of blood for twelve years, ²⁶ and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse.”

The unnamed woman's situation.

This woman's actions are sandwiched between Jairus and his daughter's situation. This encourages the reader to contrast the two main characters in this story.

Jairus was an important synagogue ruler. The woman was an anonymous “nobody.”

Jairus' 12 year old daughter was dying. The woman was dealing with a twelve year debilitating issue.

Both of them could not solve their concerns. Jairus was most likely wealthy but his money could not buy his daughter's health.

The woman was hemorrhaging blood most likely from her female parts. She had spent all her money seeking a cure from doctors. Her money could not buy her health. She was now poor and still struggling physically.

Physically loss of blood causes fatigue, weakness, shortness of breath, lower blood pressure. it is very hard on your body. This woman experienced this for 12 years. But it may not have been the physical aspects that affected her the most.

Bleeding impacted her status in society. The woman was alone. She was deemed unclean- and treated like a leper. She was thought to be infectious so people would scatter in fear if she walked near them. Because she was considered unclean, she could not step inside the temple or the local synagogue.

Jairus was welcomed and honored wherever he went. He enjoyed being in the synagogue and being around other spiritual leaders.

As we have seen in earlier encounters, people attributed disabilities or ongoing illnesses to sin. God must be punishing her for something she did. It seemed this was her lot in life- physical weakness and socially and spiritually isolated. That was until she heard about Jesus.

Verse 27, "She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. ²⁸ For she said, "If I touch even his garments, I will be made well."

Jesus was surrounded by a mass of people. But she made the decision to get close enough to Him in order to touch His clothing. Though there was nothing any doctors could do, the woman believed that just touching Jesus' clothes would heal her. There was something about Jesus that she was willing to risk ridicule and scorn. There was something about Jesus that she believed making this bold move would pay off.

The woman didn't step in front of Jesus like Jairus. She came up from behind Him. She wanted to touch the corner of his clothing and then disappear back through the crowd. So she worked her way through the crowd until she was behind Jesus and then reached out and touched His clothing.

In faith the women touched Jesus' clothes and was healed.

Verse 29, "And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease." With just one touch, all her physical issues were gone. She could feel it inside her. She could no longer feel blood flowing. She was healed. Praise God.

The woman thought she had gone unnoticed with the healing. But Jesus, felt His healing power go out to her and spoke up. Verse 30, "And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone out from him, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my garments?" ³¹ And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd

pressing around you, and yet you say, 'Who touched me?' ³² And he looked around to see who had done it."

Ever been in a crowded situation? Maybe shopping on Black Friday? Or at a concert? People are packed in and you lose the ability to recognize someone touching you.

Years ago at the ELD campus, we were running one very full service. The foyer was notoriously packed after the worship service was over. It was quite difficult trying to maneuver to the nursery or exit the building.

Andrea and I were already near the doors shaking hands and giving hugs as people were leaving. Pastor Scott was in the middle of the foyer with people all around him. He had not been able to get to the doors yet.

At that time, there was a young boy who was quite ornery. A good friend from our days in Seminary was visiting us. She saw this boy getting frustrated trying to push his way through the crowd of people. When he got next to Pastor Scott, he opened his mouth and bit Pastor Scott on the butt like he was biting an apple. Our friend told Andrea and I what happened and we both got wide eyed. Our friend mentioned that Pastor Scott didn't react. He just kept talking to people.

It wasn't until the crowd dwindled that we were able to share with him what happened. It was so crowded that Pastor Scott had no idea that the boy had bitten him there. We all had a good laugh.

Jesus knew His healing power had left Him. Do you think He knew who touched Him or was He unsure? He is God. He knows everything. Everything, but one thing that I know of. Jesus doesn't "officially" know and that is the time of His return. Matthew 24:36 (ESV), "But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only."

If Jesus knew who it was then why ask the question, “Who touched my garments?” The question had a purpose.

Jesus purposefully engaged the woman in dialogue.

Verse 33, “But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before him and told him the whole truth. ³⁴ And he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”

Had Jesus let her leave without recognizing her, she would still be socially unacceptable. How could she prove to others that she no longer had a blood issue without having to expose her private area to prove it? So the healing would be limited to a few people. Would that be enough to change her status in society and in the synagogue? Or would she still be considered unclean?

Jesus engaged with her before the crowds. She was able to share what she did to receive healing. Her testimony would be affirmed by Jesus and thus she would be set free from her uncleanness. She would get her life back.

He also engaged her so that she would know for certain what it was that truly healed her. Left alone, her healing might've been connected to Jesus' clothing as if it had power. Jesus clarified that “Your faith has made you well.” Her faith in what? Her faith in Jesus. It was His power not His clothes that made her well.

Notice also the special name Jesus gave her. Jesus called the unnamed woman, “Daughter.” Jairus had pleaded with Jesus to heal his daughter. Jesus stops to heal His Father's now daughter. She not only believed in her healing but believed in Jesus so that she was now a forever daughter of the Lord. What an amazing life transformation. What dignity Jesus gave to her.

He said, “Go in peace, and be healed of your disease.” Peace in Hebrew is Shalom. That word means a wholeness- a wholeness of body. A wholeness of emotions. A life

experience serenity. A right relationship with God. Go daughter- experience this peace that only I can give you.

While Jesus was talking with the woman He called daughter, Jairus was concerned about His own daughter. For she was dying. Imagine someone cutting in line in front of you at a store or restaurant. How do you feel?

Imagine someone getting in the way of your dearly loved daughter who is teetering at the edge of death. How might you feel?

Before Jesus was done speaking with the woman, Jairus is given bad news. Verse 35, “While he was still speaking, there came from the ruler’s house some who said, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?”

Jairus believed that Jesus could heal his sick daughter. But now she was dead. Don’t bother Jesus anymore. It is too late.

Jesus knows us intimately. He knows our hearts. He knows our fears. In every situation He knows what to say. Jairus was wondering if it was too late? So

Jesus assures the faith of Jairus.

Verse 36, “But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, “Do not fear, only believe.” The words “only believe” literally mean, “Keep on believing.” Jesus was telling Jairus that the faith he had to seek out Jesus earlier is what he needed to keep believing- that Jesus can heal his now dead daughter.

When they reached Jairus’ house it was a chaotic scene. People were weeping and wailing loudly.

Jesus said an unusual statement to the crowded house. Verse 39, “And when he had entered, he said to them, ‘Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping.’⁴⁰ And they laughed at him.”

Was the girl dead? Yes. But, she might as well be asleep because to Jesus, it would only be a couple words and she would “awake” as if from a nap.

Jesus allowed only Peter, James and John and Jairus and his wife in the room with the dead girl. Verse 41, “Taking her by the hand he said to her, “Talitha cumi,” which means, “Little girl, I say to you, arise.”⁴² And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement.”

All those in the room realized that

Death is not greater than Jesus.

With two Aramaic words “Talitha cumi” translated “Little girl, I say to you, arise.” And the girl came to life and got up and started walking around. Amazing!

Who is able to bring people back to life? Only God. They were face-to-face with God in human flesh. The Messiah- the promised Savior was right before their eyes.

Not everyone sees people healed or brought back to life. Many can testify when God didn’t answer their pleading and begging for healing. Many can testify that God didn’t answer their prayers and their loved ones dying.

One of the lowest points of Martin Luther’s life was when his beloved daughter Magdalena, barely fourteen years of age, was stricken with the plague. Brokenhearted he knelt beside her bed and begged God to release her from the pain. But she died. Did God love Luther and his daughter less than Jairus? No. God always has a purpose we just don’t understand on this side of life. It will make sense in eternity.

If you can grasp that God loves each of us the same and that He isn’t in the business of wrecking lives. And if we can grasp that death doesn’t get the final say then we can have hope. Hope that our loved ones are experiencing peace and safety and enjoying

eternal life in God's presence. One day, bodies and souls will join together in the final resurrection.

Martin Luther realized this. As the carpenters were nailing down the lid of his daughter's coffin, Luther screamed out, "Hammer away! On doomsday she'll rise again."

What can we apply to our lives from these two encounters?

Application

There are different degrees of faith.

Not everybody has the same degree of faith, but Jesus responds to faith no matter how feeble it might be.

If you don't have a personal relationship with Jesus, you may think you have to have a complete picture of who He is to trust in Him. We can learn from these two encounters that Jesus accepts different degrees of faith. The woman's faith in Jesus who she had heard about was mixed with a belief that Jesus' robe was somewhat magical. She didn't have a complete understanding but what little she knew of Jesus was enough to heal her and ultimately bring her to faith.

Do you believe that Jesus is God? Do you believe He died and rose again on the cross for your sins? Then you know enough to trust Him for the forgiveness of your sins. You know enough to become a Christian. Once you trust in Him, you will gain so much more understanding on who Jesus is and how much He loves and cares for you.

If you are already a believer, are you giving Jesus opportunities to show He is faithful? In faith, the woman risked ridicule to touch Jesus' clothes. In faith, Jairus fell before Jesus and sacrificed his reputation and potentially his job at the synagogue. **What are you trusting Jesus for that stretches your faith?**

Are you trusting Jesus will not fail you when you go out on a limb to share your testimony? Are you getting more out of your comfort zone and risking your reputation by looking like a fool for Jesus? Are you becoming more generous, trusting that God will meet your needs?

What are you trusting Jesus for that stretches your faith?

Lasting hope is found in Jesus.

From these encounters, know that Jesus will not reject your faith in Him. Whether you are on the wealthy or poor spectrum, acceptable or unacceptable by society, healthy or sick, you are welcome and loved by Jesus. All people matter to God.

You can go to Jesus and He will not turn you away. He will give you peace with God. He will give you peace in the midst of turbulent times on earth. He will give you peace for eternity. John 14:27 (ESV), "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

Are you experiencing His peace right now? if you are not, could it be that you are not clinging to Jesus? When you cling to Jesus, peace is experienced.

As we move along the steps in discipleship, a key question to keep asking yourself and answering is: who do you know that needs to hear about this hope? Who will you encounter this week with the hope that is in you? Who can you help to move to the Christ-follower category or disciple category? How can you take steps to become a disciple-maker?

May we be used by God in encountering people so that they may encounter Jesus.

Let's pray

o.b.g.