

THE TENDER LOVE OF JESUS (Mk. 5:21-34)

Jesus has returned safely across the Sea of Galilee after having delivered the man from demon-possession in the cemetery in the country of the Gadarenes. Immediately, on His disembarkation from the boat, He was surrounded again by the multitudes on the shore (Mk. 5:21).

In the short period since the commencement of His public ministry, He had been under such tremendous demand (Mk. 2:13; 3:7,8,9,20,32; 4:1,36). He was a *phenomenon* with power the people wanted to harness. He cast out demons, He healed the sick, He controlled the wind and the sea, He created new organs and limbs, He fed thousands, He was indestructible ... This whole area had never experienced anything like Him! So, no wonder He was surrounded by multitudes!

In 5:1-20 we saw His power over demons. In the remainder of this chapter we shall see His power *again* over disease, and also over death. Behind it all, though, is the fact Jesus was where He needed to be. He didn't hide away from the people. His whole ministry was spent among the neediest ... in the streets and highways, on the country roads and lanes, on the hillsides and fields, in the synagogues, in the homes, along the seashore, sailing on the sea ... even in a cemetery!

When He rested, He always returned to the crowds for He knew how much they needed Him. Sometimes they were quite nasty. Sometimes they were courteous and grateful. Sometimes they crushed up against Him ... but He never stayed out of their way for it was the purpose of His Father to come unto His own (Jn. 1:11).

So, v.21 is a 'link' verse between the story of Legion and the demons to what is coming next. Whereas previously, Jesus had been asked to leave the Gadarene region (v.17), in v.21 He was being welcomed into His own country of Galilee again. They 'wanted' Him there, though, because of His healings. Yes, they could 'take' His teachings and, - to a certain degree, - they could 'have' so much of it ... but it was really His ability to heal they wanted to 'tap into'. And so, the multitudes were teeming with people who needed to get to Him. ... They had no thought for the eternal, for they were simply craving the temporal ... the *now*.

However, in the midst of that great number there were two people. Most of that multitude was looking for the spectacular, but here were two folk, - a man and a woman, - who had an *understanding* of the Saviour the others didn't.

These two people were not related to each other. On the outside, they had nothing in common. They came from different sections of society, - one was well-off, the other wasn't ... one was a ruler in the synagogue, the other was an outcast due to her condition ... one had a twelve-year old daughter, and the other had a twelve-year old disease. ... And look at how our attention is brought to what is about to take place, **22 And, behold** ... Mark is showing us there is something for us to take account of here ... There is something going to happen that we need to pay attention to ... Here's Jesus, and He has just got off the boat, the crowds are 'milling around' Him, and, - and this is important, - here are two of the neediest people who also had a real need in their hearts to meet Him.

One of these two individuals had a leading role in the local synagogue, and that should have meant he 'shied off' from having any associations with Jesus. The rabbis and the synagogue officials had no time for Jesus. They were constantly, - even from the 'early days', - looking for opportunities to derail His ministry. So, how wholly inappropriate it was for someone 'out of the synagogue' to go running to Jesus! It was completely against the synagogue policy! ... He risked being severely 'wrapped on the knuckles' for doing such a thing.

Did this man know about Jesus? Of course, he did ... that is why he was there! He probably saw how Christ had healed people, or if he hadn't actually seen it for himself, he definitely would have heard of it. ... He might even have been in the Capernaum synagogue referred to in Mk. 1:21.

And he not only came to where Jesus was, but he ran right up to Him and fell at His feet (v.22) ... In front of everyone, he, - one of the rulers of the synagogue, - fell at the feet of Jesus! *He acknowledged this Christ the other rulers of the synagogue had rejected!* It would have caused a gasp among many in the crowd. He came, though, and adopted that attitude because of his great need, he **23 besought him [Jesus] greatly** ... There was an earnestness and an urgency that brought him to his knees before the Lord. He pleaded desperately ... in front of all those people ... he implored the Lord, he **besought him greatly**. He wasn't for leaving Jesus until the Saviour came home with him, *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.* ... He believed Jesus could help him. He believed Jesus could restore his little girl. "Jesus, she's dying. I want You to come to my home, lay Your hands upon her, and I believe You can raise her up again". ... *Such faith!*

Here is a man whose faith was totally invested in the Saviour. He believed Jesus to be Who He claimed to be, - no arguments and no doubts! ... What a faith! ...

How strong is *your* faith? Indeed, let's qualify that question, how strong is your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ? You see, we are not just told to have 'faith'. We are not simply told to believe in 'anything' ... but the Word of God instructs us to specifically believe in Christ, and to trust in Him as our Saviour and Lord.

Jairus' heart was being torn apart. His daughter was twelve years of age ... For twelve years he watched her grow from a little baby into a beautiful young girl. He had invested his love and attention upon her, - she was the apple of her father's eye. She was now the age, - in the Jewish law, - when she was eligible for marriage, ready to become an adult, and anticipating life as a wife and a mother. Yes, he should have been filled with hope and anticipation but instead, he was distraught because he feared his beloved daughter was dying. And so, the loving Lord Jesus Christ, - touched with the feelings of our infirmities (Heb. 4:15), - went with him (v.24). The Saviour stopped what He was doing and what He was saying in the midst of that great multitude and He headed off towards the home where He would find this little girl.

There is a beauty emanating from this tender picture. Out of all the crowd Jesus was content to hone in on one person. He is not 'into numbers' like many are. He centred His thoughts and His heart upon this twelve-year-old daughter of Jairus. That is what we mean when we refer to a 'particular' Gospel. Just as Jesus had crossed the Sea of Galilee the evening before, - on one errand, - to go to the man in the cemetery who was possessed by all those demons, similarly He was particularly prepared to go to the home of this ruler of the synagogue, to meet this one young girl. ... And also notice ... It didn't matter who these people were or where they lived, Jesus went with them. He didn't go to the homes of everyone in the multitude, but such was His sovereign purpose that He went to the demon-possessed man whose home was among the tombs (v.3) and He also went to the more opulent home of the man who had plenty. ... Indeed, it is an undeniable and beautiful fact of God's grace that He enters in where He chooses.

And Jesus walked along that country path with that grieving father, even though **much people ... thronged him** (v.24). ... Does Jesus have time for you? Sometimes you might wonder if you are going through difficult circumstances all on your own. Sometimes you feel as if you *are* on your own, and your prayers reach no higher than the ceiling, and you *do* wonder where He is. Well, He has promised you He will never leave you, and He has also promised you He will never forsake you. ... If you are ever concerned and tempted to think He has abandoned you, I would encourage you to do what often is the most difficult course of action to take ... and it is the course of action this man took. ...

He ran to Jesus, he fell down on his knees before Him, and he cast His burden before the Lord. If Satan whispers doubts and lies into your ears, you need to go and hear the truth from God ... Read it in His Word how He loves you, and how He gave His Son to die for you, and how the precious blood of His Son purchased your redemption ... His Son took your eternal punishment upon Himself, and at this very moment He is preparing a place for you in Glory ... Don't pay any attention to what the devil is telling to you ... go, instead, and wrap yourself in God's Word and believe in His promises!

That is basically what Jairus was doing. Imagine the 'voices in his head' telling him not to make a fool of himself in front of all those people ... Stay with your little daughter, and your wife who need you ... Don't go running away to Jesus! ... But, if Jairus had not gone to Jesus, his daughter would have died!

Incidentally, do you know what the name Jairus means? It is an old Hebrew name, Jair ... Jair was from Gilead, a judge of Israel for twenty-two years (Jdgs 10:3-5), and he had thirty sons ... That was who Jairus was named after and, by the way ... here is something else that is significant ... the name Jairus, - like Jair, - means "whom God enlightens" ... And that is exactly what God was doing here in the very heart of Jairus. God was shining a light into the darkness of soul ... for this same Jesus said on another occasion, **Jn. 8:12** *I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.*

And here is another beautiful, but simple observation ... Usually when someone comes to Jesus with a need, He asks them what that need is. Here though, there is no such question asked for we read, **24** *And Jesus went with him* ... Jesus *followed* this man with his need. There is His humility. And neither did He tell Jairus, "I'm not going to your house. I don't have the time ... You run along and bring your daughter to Me!" No, He did not say that for once again we see grace at work, *Jesus went with him.* ... Yes, running up to Jesus Jairus had *fear* in his heart, but on meeting the Saviour his fear turned into *faith*.

In the midst of all this, something else happened, - that was how busy Jesus was. Actually, it is an encouragement to the child of God that no matter how occupied He is with anyone else, He also takes time for *every one* of His children. Each is important to Him.

So, on their way to Jairus' home, **25** *a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years*, appeared on the scene. It was an 'interruption'. Some would have said Jesus did not have time for this, - He had to get to Jairus' house, *and quick* ... or the little girl would die! ...

But, doesn't it say much for Jairus that he didn't cause a row ...He didn't interfere with this woman and tell her to go away but, instead, he saw, - like him, - she also needed the attention of the Saviour. ... *There* is the demonstration of genuine grace at work in this man's life. Yes, his name meant "whom God enlightens" and regardless of what met them in the way, the light of God's hope was already shining in the soul of Jairus. With the Saviour, he knew that all things would be well.

This woman, - whose name we are not given, - had a haemorrhage-problem for as long as the daughter of Jairus had been alive, - that's a long time bleeding! We are not told what caused it, but it would have made her weak and lifeless, and it would have made her open to all kinds of conditions and embarrassing moments.

As well as that, the Law of Moses in Lev. 12:3-5 said she was unclean and she had to stay away from people. That is what she had to do for those twelve years. She daren't have gone into the temple or a synagogue. She wasn't allowed to *touch* anyone for through physical contact with her, the other person was also contaminated, and rendered unclean. She was an outcast, - friendless and alone.

In the early days she had gone to the doctors, and spent all her money but there was nothing they could do for her ... in fact, her condition worsened (v.26). She was a hopeless case! Then, she heard about the healing power of Jesus, So, she did what she shouldn't have done and she went in among the people she was supposed to avoid ... and she went up to Jesus, - in the middle of the crowd, - and, as the hymn writer wrote, "She only touched the hem of His garment As to His side she stole, Amid the crowd that gathered around Him, And straightway she was whole".

She 'snuck up' behind Him, and manoeuvred her way in among the people when all their attention was fixed on Jesus ... And as He was walking along the road with Jairus, she just simply put her hand out and touched, - held on to, grasped (ἄπτομαι), - the tassles on the hem of His cloak. That was all she did! She had said to herself, **28** *If I may touch [ἄπτομαι] but his clothes, I shall be whole. ...*

She had no doubts for she believed if I could get near enough to Jesus *and touch Him*, I shall be healed from this illness and condition that has *blighted* me for these past twelve years. ... Just imagine her 'weedling her way' through the crowd to Jesus ... She wanted to put her hands out and touch Him, to be made whole. ... Being at a distance was no good for she had to draw near to the Saviour. Her faith was of no benefit away at the back of the crowd ...

Neither would she be healed by standing at the side of the road ... She had to have personal contact with the Saviour in order to be healed. Indeed, that is what Jesus said on another occasion, [Mt. 11:28](#) *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest* ... and that is what the woman did.

By the way, she wasn't being superstitious about the cloak Jesus wore, - she didn't consider it as having any magical properties. No, she simply believed that in touching the Saviour, His power would heal her. Her bleeding would stop, and her life would change ... and that is what happened, [29](#) *And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague.* She was healed immediately. No more running to the doctors and no more wasted efforts ... The moment she came to the Saviour, and touched the hem of His garment, and believed, was the moment the power of Jesus Christ healed her.

Just as quickly as she was healed, Jesus stopped. He turned around to face her, and He asked, [30](#) *Who touched my clothes?* ... Oh, He knew ... But notice how the disciples responded incorrectly when they answered Him, [31](#) *Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me?* ... He *didn't* actually say, "Who touched me?" He said, [30](#) *Who touched my clothes?* ... How important it is to pay particular attention to what Jesus truly said! How important it is for us *not* to change what His Word plainly and specifically says, because every word that He says is God's Word! ... It might seem only a small thing, but do you see how their reply was of no use to Him, [32](#) *And he looked round about to see her that had done this thing.* ... God's Word is perfect and does not need to be changed by man!

Oh, Jesus knew exactly who the woman was ... and the only other person who also knew was the woman herself! And Jesus knew everything about her, and her illness, and what she had gone through those past twelve years ... but isn't it also so beautiful that He felt the power going from Him to heal this woman when she touched the hem of His garment!

Sometimes we might think it took nothing out of Jesus to do the miracles, but it did! This story shows us it did. Every person He healed, every person from whom He cast out demons, and every work He did took more out of Him than we can measure. Yes, He was God, but He was also human. ... 'Wind forward' to Calvary to see how much it took out of Him to satisfy the wrath of His Father when He died as a punishment for our sins. He gasped, and groaned, and sweated, and writhed in agony ... the power drained from Him. He is not detached from His people. He is not unfeeling or insensitive. He wasn't pretending ...

... and He felt the power leaving Him and going into that woman for He was personally and fully involved with her in His work. He is not aloof, “Can we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our every weakness, Take it to the Lord in prayer” ... and this woman brought her problem to the Lord ... the problem no one else could help her with, and He healed her.

“Who touched Me? Oh, He knew, but He wanted to hear the woman admit and confess it ... and here is irresistible grace, ³² he looked round about to see her that had done this thing ... He already knew who she was, and *where* she was. He knew her name, her family, her condition, and everything about her ... there was nothing hidden from Him, as He looked straight into her eyes. Yes, He called out *Who touched me?* so that she would come to Him. And she did, 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.* In front of that great multitude of people, that is what she did, despite her fear! She came trembling because she knew she was in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

And she told Him all the truth, - He knew it of course, but He listened to her testimony as it came from her own lips. Yes, He was busy with this prior engagement with Jairus’ daughter, and yet, He also had time for this woman.

³⁴ *And he said unto her, Daughter ...* She wasn’t His daughter, of course, but it demonstrates how she had been brought into a new relationship with Him, - she had become part of His family ... He had *adopted* her. Remember also how this word ‘daughter’ would have been particularly poignant since Jesus was on His way to meet Jairus’ daughter. What confidence it gave Jairus that a ‘complete stranger’ as this woman, - an apparent ‘nobody’, - would gain such attention from the Saviour!

That is the *same* Saviour and Lord we have. When *we* have tried every other avenue, He is always waiting for us to return to Him. ... Why is it we are often so prone to seek the advice of the ‘many physicians’ (v.26) when we have the privilege of the One Who is the *Great Physician*!

The most serious affliction is not the one that afflicts the body, but it is the one that afflicts the soul. Christ is the great Healer, and He *does* heal. He remains the God Who has the power to heal today ... but beyond that, He is also the great and only Saviour Who can free the sinner from their sin. None other can remove the sin that ruins a person’s life, but Christ. That is why He came, and that is behind what He said to this woman, ³⁴ *Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole.* ...

The word for ‘whole’ is σώζω, and that is the word for salvation. ... The Philippian jailer cried out, *what must I do to be saved?* (Acts 16:30) ... and it is the same word, σώζω ... **34** *Daughter, thy faith hath [saved] thee.* ... There are other words for healing (θεραπεία, Lk. 9:6; ἰασις, Acts 4:22), but the word Jesus used on this occasion was the specific word relating to salvation.

And then after she had been healed, - after Jesus had changed her life, - He said to her, **34** *go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.* ... This woman had entered a new relationship with God, and her brand new life was stretching out before her, - she was a new creation in Christ, **II Cor. 5:17** *old things [had] passed away; behold, all things [had] become new.* That was the new life Christ had given her. A new future was stretching out before her because of what Jesus had done.

Yes, He was busy ... but He is never too busy for those to whom He is precious. You are His child, - His daughter or His son, - you are precious to Him. He will always have time for you. He will never turn you away.

Maybe you are not a believer yet, but there is something already stirring in your soul to cry out to Him? ... Then *cry* out to Him and you will discover He is already listening and waiting, for here is what He promises, **Is. 65:24** *before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.* ... “His love has no limit, His grace has no measure, His power has no boundary known unto men; for out of His infinite riches in Jesus, He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again”. Amen.