

Marks of Discipleship

Daily Prayer ■ Weekly Worship ■ Bible Reading
Giving Time, Talents & Resources
Spiritual Friendships ■ Service In & Beyond the
Church

July 17, 2022

Day 1: Mark 5:22-24

Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet and begged him repeatedly, '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.' So he went with him. And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him.

This section of Mark demonstrates how the Kingdom of God has come for both the great and the outcast. Jairus is a wealthy, influential member of his community. However when his daughter is taken sick he takes off his robes of office and takes on the humble clothing of a father who loves his daughter. He comes to Jesus as any father would, to beg help for his child. We know he is sincere in his worry for he does not send for Jesus with a servant but goes himself.

Question: How much was Jesus influenced by Jairus' position?

Challenge: Leaving the pastor aside - who is the leader of your "synagogue"?

Scripture: Hebrews 13:12-22

Day 2: Mark 5:25-27

Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak,

As Jesus was going to Jairus' home he was followed by a number of people. A woman had a medical condition that caused her to have a flow of blood like a menstrual cycle. Her medical condition caused her to be "unclean" and therefore not able to be in with society at large. She is also without money, as she has spent it all on doctors. She cannot walk among her friends for fear of making them unclean by touching her. She cannot go to worship with others because she might taint them. She is at the lowest point of her society - literally an outcast. She comes to Jesus, just like Jairus, with the same sense of desperation and asks for healing.

Question: Why do you think the culture at that time had the notion of unclean when they did not know about germs?

Challenge: How do you see this concept of "unclean" operating in our world today?

Scripture: Leviticus 15:25-30

Day 3: Mark 5:28-29

for she said, 'If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.' Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease.

Her belief that touching Jesus' clothes will make her whole comes from the belief that touching a person who is unclean will make you unclean. If just touching can contaminate a person perhaps just touching a healer can make you clean. She came to Jesus believing that He would not just heal her but more importantly, that He would not reject her. It was at some risk to herself to come and touch Jesus. She knew right away that touching Jesus healed her but nobody else in the crowd would know she was healed.

Question: How can a person avoid illness?

Challenge: Can you tell when you are better from an illness? How can you tell?

Scripture: Matthew 9:34-10:6

Day 4: Mark 5:30-31

Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, 'Who touched my clothes?' And his disciples said to him, 'You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, "Who touched me?"

Jesus, knowing that healing went out from him, begins to look for the person who touched him. It is interesting to note that even when Jesus is not trying, he can heal. The disciples could not tell who touched Him; as they looked at the crowd they just saw the mass of faces. Jesus had the ability to tell when someone was in deep need or just curious about him.

Question: Can you find someone in a crowd easily? How do you do it?

Challenge: Why did the disciples not notice the woman?

Scripture: Matthew 4:18-5:3

Day 5: Mark 5:32-33

He looked all round to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth.

Jesus looks and sees the woman at his feet. She is worried that she will be rebuked because her action was way out of line for a woman in her condition at that time. In telling the whole truth she admits to "being in the wrong" in terms of the culture and acknowledges that her need was so strong that she risked everything. Jairus is in the same position; he is willing to let go of convention in order to save his daughter.

Question: Have you ever found yourself in actual fear of God?

Challenge: Write a paragraph and say what you think her "whole truth" was.

Scripture: Philippians 2:5-15

Day 6: Mark 5:34

He said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.'

Jesus calls her "Daughter" - a term that Jairus uses to describe his child. Jesus is reminding the woman that she has a Father in heaven that loves her just as Jairus loves his daughter. The Father in heaven is willing to come down to earth and give up his power and dignity to bring healing to the world. God sees us as children with an illness unto death and sent, in humble form, Himself to cure us. It is at the name of Jesus that we are forgiven and able to lead a new life. When we accept Christ as Lord we hear the voice of Jesus saying "go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

Question: How does it feel to be well after an illness?

Challenge: What do you think the term "go in peace means"?

Scripture: Luke 17:11-19