

# Marks of Discipleship

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

## Day 1: Mark 5:22-24

August 7, 2022

**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 child. He comes to Jesus as any father who would beg for 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 or leaders 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 worship or be with much of the society at large. She was also without money, as she had 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 Jarius, with the same sense of desperation and asks for healing.

**Question:** Why do you think the culture at the 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 would make her well may have come not just out of being desperate, but the belief that God had sent this opportunity and she needed to reach out and take it. 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. This is the most important point in the event. The healing was good but the real message was that God does not abandon us. It was at some risk to her 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:** Why do you think that people believed that illness was punishment from God?

**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. 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 was in the same position - he was 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 Jarius used to describe his child. Jesus is reminding the woman that she has a Father in heaven who loves her just as Jarius 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, Jesus 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, be healed, and be made whole."

**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