

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION

LORD OF SICKNESS AND DEATH: MARK 5:21-43



SCRIPTURE

MARK 5:21-43 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.

BIG IDEA

Jesus has just proven Himself to be Lord of storms and even Lord of demons. But now He faces a foe more terrifying than a hurricane, more threatening than a legion of evil spirits—He faces death itself. Jairus begs Jesus to save his daughter who is on the brink of death, and Jesus goes with Him. But along the way a woman who is suffering on multiple levels seems to interrupt the one marching to save a dying girl. Jesus heals the woman, stops, comforts her, and restores her place among the people of God and the community at large. He is Lord of sickness! To Jairus' horror, his daughter had died in the time Jesus took to graciously deal with the sick woman. Yet Jesus looks right at him and essentially says, "I know you're scared, but don't give in to fear. You're with *me*! Trust me. Everything will be fine." Jesus brings the dead girl back to life. It's as if Jesus is saying, "When you're with me, even death itself is but a nap from which I'll wake you to eternal life." We learn at least 5 things from this scene:

1. Jesus doesn't simply heal you to heal you. He heals you in order that He can know you and you can know Him.
2. Jesus is willing to take our uncleanness into Himself in order to make us clean.
3. It doesn't matter who you are or what you need saving from, Jesus is the Great Physician.
4. We don't have to question the timing of Jesus.

We can rest easy in storms, in the face of great evil, with sickness, and even in death, because Jesus is Lord of all and His timing is perfect. Even when things look out of control or Jesus' timing seems off, he looks at you and says, "Trust me." And because of what He did for us on the cross you know you can.

DISCUSSION

1. Read through Mark 5:21-43 and discuss what stands out to you.
2. Did anything from the sermon or big idea stand out to you?
Was anything confusing?
3. Are you willing to be interrupted? If you are busy helping one person, will you take time to help someone who is hurting? How do you prioritize?
4. Jesus felt it when He took on the woman's uncleanness and bestowed grace on her. What does this tell us about how we are made clean? What does this tell us about the cost Jesus willingly paid to save us?
5. Have you ever been frustrated with God's timing? What does this scene show us about God's timing and why we can trust Him?