

## **A Wheat Street Bible Study**

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**“WE ARE WHEAT STREET!”**

### **God Will Make A Way: Restoring Life to Dead Stuff Mark 5:21-43**

**Introduction:** With God the impossible is possible. God has the power to raise dead stuff back to life again if we don't give up on those things that need resurrected. I don't quite understand it but somehow what God does is divinely connected to our asking, our faith and God's faithfulness. I don't think this is some magical equation but there is a connection. In the stories we look at tonight the people sought out Jesus and via this seeking God acts on their request that is somehow linked to their faith. What we do know is that the issue of seeking, asking, believing and God acting is somehow connected. We see four things present in these stories tonight:

1. Seeking God
2. Not giving up on things that appear dead or that appear unresolvable
3. Having the faith and courage to take your stuff to God / privately and sometimes publicly
4. Believing and recognizing that God is at work in the midst of what might look like God is not at work. God has a way of masking God's action in death with the future of resurrection. In other words don't panic God might be on the way.

### **The Encounter: Being Willing to Throw Yourself / Your Stuff at the Feet of Jesus Mark 5:21-24**

**21** When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. **22** Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet **23** 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.” **24** So he went with him. And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him.

#### **Who is this man Jairus?**

A ruler from the synagogue! He is not supposed to be running after Jesus. This man of power and authority who laid all of that down because of his need and his faith. What we see here is a man who wasn't ashamed to cry out for help. We see a man who loved his daughter enough to do what was necessary for her healing. What we see here is a man of faith who had faith in a God who could heal his daughter. What we see here is a parent who put his child at the feet of the Master. We as parents have to sometimes turn our children over to God. Not only our children but our stuff.

We have to have the faith and the courage to run to God (privately and sometimes publicly) and cry for help. By publicly I am not talking about you getting up in church and testifying but rather I am talking about seeking help. Seeking professional help. To tell someone who isn't in our family and friends network who can help us. Going to

support groups that can help us. We have to have the courage and faith to come out of the closet to get the help we need to be free from what we are struggling with. Sometimes just talking about it is healing in itself.

What is your stuff?

Are there things we need help with that we are ashamed or afraid to get help with?

Are there things we are trying to cover up that we need to make public so that we can be healed and set free?

Is our status getting in the way of our confession?

Is our position getting in the way of our running to Jesus and asking for HELP!

Are we concerned about what people would think if they knew what our issue(s) are so we don't get the help and as result we are dying inside?

### **The Role of Your Faith in Your Healing: The Need to Believe**

I want to be careful here as I don't want to suggest that somehow God is obligated to act on what we believe. I confess I don't quite know how this works. What I do know is that there appears to be an element of faith present in these healing stories. There is a role that faith plays but I don't want to argue that there is a direct casual relationship between our faith and God's act of healing. At the core of this I still believe that God is sovereign. God does what God does because of who God is as God acts on God's faithfulness. Because God is sovereign God does what God chooses to because God is God.

#### **Mark 5:25-34**

**25** Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. **26** She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. **27** She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, **28** for she said, "If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well." **29** Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. **30** Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my clothes?" **31** And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, 'Who touched me?'" **32** He looked all around to see who had done it. **33** But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. **34** He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

**Enduring Suffering:** The first thing we see in this story is what the woman had endured. She had been to doctors and they couldn't heal her. She had spent all of her money. She was broke. She was spent in more ways than one.

**Hearing About Jesus:** She had heard about Jesus. If we stop and pause here it points us back to the need for evangelism. People need to hear about Jesus. People need to hear your testimonies of what God has done in your life. When we testify to the goodness and power of God we are telling people about Jesus and giving them hope. Her hearing about Jesus gave her hope after a twelve year struggle / battle with an incurable disease.

**The Touch of Jesus:** I have preached over and over about the power of touch. When we touch each other it makes a difference. That is why I insist on hugging people. Touch is biblical and sacred that is why we have to make sure that touch is not violated.

She touched Jesus and the touch was sufficient to save her / heal her. It is interesting that Jesus felt the touch. He felt the healing power go out of him. While others were obviously touching him he felt her touch because of her faith. Here this goes again. There is something here about faith, healing, wholeness and touching. Somehow our faith is connected to God's act. Her faith and believing and fighting to simply touch Jesus makes a difference in what happens here.

After Jesus calls her out and confronts her in love he says:

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

Jesus is suggesting that there is a connection here between her faith and her healing. Her faith was honored. Now as we look at this we have to make sure we understand that it wasn't her faith that healed her but rather it was her faith that brought her to place where she could be healed.

It was her faith that moved her to fight through the crowd to touch Jesus. It was her faith that led her, after hearing about Jesus, to go and find Jesus and it was her faith that led her to believe that to simply touch Jesus' garment was sufficient. What healed her was the power of Jesus. Jesus is the healer. Jesus is the one who healed her. Jesus said, "your faith has made you well" but then he says, "go in peace and be healed of your disease." Jesus is recognizing the work her faith did but it is clear that he has to pronounce that she is healed. He gives the healing. Her faith made her press but it is Jesus who made her whole.

The reason I push this so much is that I don't want us to get confused by a name it claim it theology that would suggest that if we only had enough faith then God would \_\_\_\_\_! Ultimately God is sovereign and I don't claim to know why God does what God does or why God does not what God does not do. I don't know why some people are healed and others aren't healed.

## **Dead is not Done: Our God Has Resurrection Power**

### **Mark 5:35-43**

**35** While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?" **36** But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe." **37** He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. **38** When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. **39** When he had entered, he said to them, "Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping." **40** And they laughed at him. Then 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** He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha cum," which means, "Little girl, get up!" **42** And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. **43** He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

### **Don't Be Discouraged by What Others Say:**

**35** While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?"

When you are believing God for a miracle you have to watch who you listen to. There are folk who don't have the faith you have and they will try to discourage you from believing that God can work a miracle. In the midst of this crisis here come folk telling the man to give up. Instead of them saying hurry we know God can raise her back to life they say, "Give up." You have to dismiss these folks in the process of your journey to believe.

### **If we don't listen to them Jesus will answer for us.**

**36** But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe."

Jesus is clear here. Don't listen to them. Interesting what Jesus says here:

1. Don't fear
2. Only believe

Jesus has given us a formula here. When we believe it has a way of putting out fear. He is also suggesting that fear gets in the way of believing. When we get fearful or fretful we know this is working against our faith. We have to fight this by simply believing. When we believe in the power of God to do we quiet our doubters (and our doubt), our haters and our mind. Sometimes it is our mind that produces a fear that can paralyze us. Our mind can talk us in to doubting what God is trying to do in our life. We fight this by believing in a God who can:

- by praying,

- by looking back at what God has done in our life and the life of others and
- by looking at the testimony God has left in the scriptures and in God's church.

### **The scene of disaster or possibility?**

#### **Who do you take with you and what do you see?**

**37** He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. **38** When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. **39** When he had entered, he said to them, "Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping." **40** And they laughed at him. Then 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.

vs 37 First thing we see here is that Jesus was always very selective with who he allowed to walk with him in circumstances like this. You have walk with people who can believe with you. You can't just take anybody with you when you are going through tough times.

vs 38 The people have lost it; they have given up. Jesus could've focused on them but he pushes right by them. When we see people who have given up and said it is over we have a faith decision to make. We can stop and cry with them or we can push pass them. Jesus didn't let them mess with him or his mission. Matter of fact he asked them: **39** When he had entered, he said to them, "Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping."

Jesus sees death as sleep. Death is not something that God cannot conquer. God specializes in bringing dead stuff back to life again. While they are crying and wailing, Jesus is calm and walking making his way to the child's bedroom. We have to keep on walking in the midst of a crisis. We can't allow the doubt of others to speak to our doubt and subsequently paralyze us. "Walk on by..."

**40** And they laughed at him. Then 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.

vs 40 They laughed at him so he put them out! Those who refuse to believe with you need to be put out of your circle or at least distanced because they infect the atmosphere of faith. Who do you need to put out that does not believe that God can do what God is about to do? We have to put some folk out? The people who are crying, wailing, laughing and not believing and they can mess you up if you keep them around. Who is willing to go with you?

### **Two Miracles: Woman Twelve Years Suffering / Little Girl Twelve Years Old**

**41** He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha cum," which means, "Little girl, get up!" **42** And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. **43** He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

This text pushes us in yet another way. We have a class issue here. We have someone from the lowest rung of society and someone from the upper class being healed. The symbolic nature of twelve and twelve, hopeless and faithful are all present here. In the end God did what God does. God gave life to the girl and her family and pronounced healing over the woman. The elements of faith is all through this story but at the core of this story is the faithfulness of God.