

## **The Cross-Shaped Life: Shaped by the Power of God Mark 5:21-43**

Nic Babbs

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**Dominant Thought: Jesus has power over our disease and death.**

**Objectives:**

**I want my listeners to know how diseased people were seen then.**

**I want my listeners to feel the power of Jesus.**

**I want my listeners to have faith like Jairus.**

**Focus Question:** If Jesus can heal people, why does He not heal me?

### **INTRODUCTION:**

Who here likes to go to the doctor? Not many of you I am sure. If you like to go to the doctor it would probably only be in the case in which you are a young kid who is not getting a shot and loves getting stickers and suckers after the appointment. I do not like to go to the doctor. Especially with all the health problems I have had basically since I was born. It felt like I had grown up in the doctor's office. There are three different diseases I have, so I tend to go to the doctor a lot. Most of the time it just feels like a waste of time. I remember when I was younger before anyone knew that I had the diseases I have now. I remember going to a doctor a lot to take a look at my ears and nose since I always had congestion in my ears and nose. I went to this doctor for some time, and he could never figure out why I was always so congested and full of mucus and snot. At this time, I was simply just a kid, but I am sure that there were moments that my parents felt like they had lost hope in the medical process. We eventually ended up going to St. Louis Children's Hospital to see a doctor who was able to confidently diagnose me with the lung disease I have now called PCD, Primary Ciliary Dyskinesia. I tell you this story because in our text today, Mark 5:21-43, there will be a woman who has found little help with doctors for years. Throughout the text today we can notice that **Jesus has power over our disease and death.** Here is the first part of our passage Mark 5:21-24,

'When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. Then one of the

synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. He pleaded earnestly with him, "My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live." So, Jesus went with him. A large crowd followed and pressed around him.'

Mark 5:21-24

Earlier in this chapter Jesus was on the one side of the lake when the demons fled from a man into pigs, then the pigs ran down the hill and they drowned. This was significant on that side of the lake because it was Gentile territory, and they used pigs for money, resources, and food. In the beginning of our text today, Jesus crossed back over the lake to the Jewish territory side of the lake and there was a man named Jairus who was a Jewish synagogue leader who came to Jesus along with a huge crowd of people. Jairus comes to Jesus, bows down to him and tells Jesus that his daughter is dying. This is the second person in this chapter to fall at the feet of Jesus. Keep your eyes peeled because there will be a third person to fall at the feet of Jesus. Jairus uses his manners while talking to Jesus and he says, "put your hands on her so that she WILL be healed and live.". We can notice that there is some kind of faith and belief that Jairus has, which is an unpopular opinion coming from a Jewish leader. Jesus and Jairus continue on their way to his daughter. Here is Mark 5:25-34,

'And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed." Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering. At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?" "You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?'" But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering." '

Mark 5:25-34

There is this woman that has been bleeding for twelve years. In the eyes of others she would be seen as a person that is diseased, which would play a factor in how people would see her. She has suffered a lot. She has probably been struggling not only physically, but also emotionally and financially. Physically

because she is bleeding and diseased. She is emotionally suffering because I'm sure people see her differently because of her disease and see her in the same group as lepers. She is probably struggling financially because many doctors have tried to help her and she has not gotten better. I'm sure many of you can relate to this woman. Maybe you or someone you know is struggling with their health and doctors cannot seem to figure out how to make you feel better or heal you. A lot of us put our faith in doctors, after a while though, you might start to lose faith in them or lose hope in becoming better. Something that is awesome about this story is that this woman could not be healed by any doctor she had ever seen, instead she actually grew worse. But in her first encounter with Jesus, she is healed by Him. After Jesus has healed this woman He feels the power leave Him. How cool is that? When He felt the power leave Him, He asked who touched Him. His disciples seem to be a little confused or even slightly disrespectful by basically saying "What do you mean Jesus, who isn't touching you?" This woman is healed; she falls at the feet of Jesus and Jesus acknowledges the woman's faith and tells her to go in peace. Jesus has power over our disease, but He also has power over our death. Let's remember Jesus is on the way to Jairus's house. Here are verses 35-36.

'While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher anymore?" Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, "Don't be afraid; just believe." '

Mark 5:35-36

After this woman was healed, some people came to tell Jairus that his daughter is dead. Jesus says to believe. I wonder what is going on in Jairus's head. Is he upset because Jesus got interrupted and didn't make it to his daughter in time? Is Jairus encouraged by the woman's faith after bleeding for 12 years, so he starts to believe as well? What is going through Jairus's mind, I wonder. He seems to believe enough to still welcome Jesus to see his daughter. Here is what Mark 5:37-43 says,

'He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. He went in and said to them, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep." But they laughed at him. After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha koum!" (which means "Little girl, I say to

you, get up!"). Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.'

Mark 5:37-43

Jesus brings his three closest disciples with Him to the house. When they get there, people are sad and crying. As He goes in He asks why people are crying because the child is asleep, and no longer dead. The people in the house end up laughing at Jesus. It is not smart to laugh at Jesus in a mocking way. These people in the house probably did all the things they needed to do in order to tell if she was dead, and now they laugh at Jesus because He says the 12-year-old girl is alive. Jesus tells the girl to get up, and she gets up and starts walking around. Everyone was amazed and Jesus told the family to get her something to eat. When Jesus raises people from the dead it is an action that will reflect His resurrection. You might be asking, how can Jesus heal us if we cannot physically touch Him? He did rise from the dead, but He also ascended into heaven. Here are two steps you can take to help you in your time of struggles with disease. 1. Pray. James 5:16b says,

'The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.'

James 5:16

Prayer can be powerful and effective. There will be things that you pray about that will happen, though it may not be fulfilled in the way you expected. The second step you can take to help in times of struggle is 2. Partnership. What I mean by partnership is getting with a brother or sister that might be struggling with similar health concerns you are, and encouraging, lifting up, and praying with them. We are called to carry each other's burdens which we can do in this kind of way.

In our text Jesus raises someone from the dead. We celebrate Jesus's resurrection every week when we have our communion. We celebrate His life, death, and resurrection. We celebrate His destruction of death. Jesus made it so that death is no longer only death, but that death can instead be a deliverance. Can you see yourself a little bit in these two stories? Maybe you have too much faith in doctors, rather than faith in Christ. Maybe you still feel like you are dead in sin, rather than being alive in Christ. Maybe you have been hurting and in so much pain for so long that you are starting to lose hope because doctors don't know what is wrong. Maybe you start to ask yourself this question, If Jesus can

heal people, why does He not heal me? That is a valid question. Has Jesus really not healed you? Romans 6:4-7 says,

'We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because anyone who has died has been set free from sin. '

Romans 6:4-7

Jesus has defeated death and granted us eternal life. Jesus has made way for us in His heavenly kingdom. What does His heavenly kingdom look like? Here is what Revelation 21:1-4 says,

'Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." '

Revelation 21:1-4

Jesus may not heal us every time. He may not bring our loved ones back to us. He has not promised that. But He will stand with us, be near to us, watch over us and He will welcome us into His kingdom with no more pain, death, and crying. We will be resurrected just as Christ was because Jesus has power over our disease and death.

Let's Pray