

The Jesus We Never Knew
“The Divine Delay: How Jesus Heals People”
Mark 5:21-43

A Dead Girl and a Sick Woman

²¹When 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. ²²Then one of the synagogue rulers, named Jairus, came there. Seeing Jesus, he fell at his feet ²³and 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.” ²⁴So Jesus went with him.

A large crowd followed and pressed around him. ²⁵And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. ²⁶She 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. ²⁷When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸because she thought, “If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.” ²⁹Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

³⁰At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched my clothes?” ³¹“You see the people crowding against you,” his disciples answered, “and yet you can ask, ‘Who touched me?’”

³²But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. ³³Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. ³⁴He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.”

³⁵While Jesus was still speaking, some men came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue ruler. “Your daughter is dead,” they said. “Why bother the teacher any more?”

³⁶Ignoring what they said, Jesus told the synagogue ruler, “Don’t be afraid; just believe.”

³⁷He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. ³⁸When they came to the home of the synagogue ruler, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. ³⁹He went in and said to them, “Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep.” ⁴⁰But 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. ⁴¹He took her by the hand and said to her, “Talitha koum!” (which means,

“Little girl, I say to you, get up!”). ⁴²Immediately the girl stood up and walked around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. ⁴³He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat. Mark 5: 21-43 (NIV)

Questions for personal and small group study and reflection

1. How far would you go to bring physical healing to someone you love? How about to get physical healing for yourself?
2. What emotional effect can long-term pain and suffering have on a person? How about on family and friends?
3. Why would the sick woman be especially anxious to get healed? (Lev 15:25) What do we know about her? (Mark 5:26)
4. How did Jesus know that someone touched him and was healed? Would you like to be able to touch Jesus' cloak and be healed? (Note: In Jesus' reply in verse 34, the Greek word for “healed” means “saved”)
5. How was her faith obvious to Jesus? What is the relationship (here) between faith and healing? In what ways, other than physical, was this woman healed and given new peace?
6. Why did Jairus think that Jesus could help his dying daughter? What did he want Jesus to do?
7. What new things did you learn about the power of Jesus?
8. What is similar and different about the two healings? What is the most significant similarity? What does this mean to you?
9. What steps of faith is Jesus calling us to make? How is He calling us to exercise our faith in His power? In His will? To trust and act upon the assurance of His love and forgiveness?
10. What is the relationship between crisis and faith in your life? How have you been like the woman or like Jairus? The men in verse 35? The mourners in verse 40?