



Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

Mark 5:21-43

Summary

This passage is the tale of two healings.

Initially Jesus is approached by Jairus, whose daughter is deathly ill. He implores Jesus to come with him and help. On the way, Jesus is followed by a large crowd of people. Among them is a woman who is also in need of healing. Believe in him so deeply, she is healed simply by touching his cloak.

Though this delay meant that Jesus arrives to find Jairus' daughter already dead, we are reminded that with God, all things are possible.

Prayer

Healing Christ,
in our brokenness, we seek Your healing touch. We reach out, trusting in Your restoring power. Mend our wounds, O Christ, and bring wholeness to our broken hearts. May Your grace envelop us, and may we find comfort in Your boundless love.
AMEN

The Story Behind the Words

- ❖ How does the manner in which Jairus approaches Jesus important?
 - How is it different from or similar to other stories where people seek the healing of Christ?
- ❖ What is significant about the condition of the woman in this reading?
 - What impact, if any, would this have on her ability to participate in society?
- ❖ How does Jesus' delay impact the story?
 - Would it have been as powerful if he had arrived before the girl died?

The Characters

- ❖ Who are the important characters in this reading?
 - Why do you think that?
- ❖ Who is named in this reading?
 - What does that tell us about the time in which it was written?
- ❖ Where do you see yourself in this reading?
 - Why would you put yourself in their sandals?
- ❖ What emotions are present in the reading?

What is the Word saying to us?

- ❖ What does this reading tell us about Jesus Christ?
 - What kind of person is he?
 - Where does his power come from?
- ❖ What does Jesus' reaction to both Jairus and the woman teach us about how we should treat those in need?
- ❖ How are the themes of life, death, and new life explored in this passage?

Where do we go from here?

- ❖ In what ways do you relate with the desperation and hope displayed by Jairus and the woman?
 - How has Jesus brought healing into your life, or do you feel that longing for healing now?
 - How can we, as individuals and as church, bring life and hope into desperate situations?
- ❖ How can the faith exhibited by those in the passage inspire our own faith?
- ❖ In what ways can the themes of patience and timing inspire how we live into our work?
- ❖ How can hope/hopelessness affect our outlook?
 - How can we work to live lives of hope?