

The Rock: 10-2-2022

A year with the Master

Communion Sunday

Title: The woman healed

Scripture: Mark 5:21-34

(Black bible Pg. 789 ESV)

Theme:

How God works and moves in our lives is not determined by how much faith we have or do not have.

He moves according to His goodness and providential care, that His works and name be made known.

Introduction:

I am always fascinated to see in the Gospels how Jesus, the one who of all people, should be in a hurry, never seemed to be.

There was always time for one more conversation, one more stop and one more moment to pray and preach.

People were never projects, they were never a frustration (except of course the Pharisees), rather they were, and continue to be His primary concern.

The restoring and building of faith and relationship. That means that we too, if we are "about our Father's business", ought to be thinking along the same lines.

The Rock -Mission "statement": **Helping the lost be found, and making life long followers of Jesus.** Remember this, as this is our mission. Everything we do and desire to do as a Church needs to be circled back to this.

Why? Because that was Jesus' mission and we are and have been sent into the world to make disciples, baptize and to teach. Everything we do must be run through that divine calling.

We can't forget that as the Church. Otherwise, we can become good at a lot of things, but never really successful at the important things: **Helping the lost be found, and making life long followers of Jesus.**

We find this morning, that while others around Jesus are losing their minds, He calmly moves along. Or in this case, He simply stops. I can only imagine the thoughts running through Jairus's head.

In full panic, he must want to scream: Why are you stopping now, I told you my

little girl is very sick and dying! Get a move on here!!

If we are honest, we all are like this man at some point. There is nothing wrong with that, until of course, there is and God is trying to teach us something -on His terms and within His time.

The Story:

For, I would submit to you, that there was no rush at all for Jesus. He sees and knows those things which we do not.

Mark 5:24a (ESV)

"...And he went with him."

That tells me that the length of the journey didn't matter to Jesus. He knew the girl would live, even if she were already dead when He arrived.

But the process, the panic, the growth and the faith built along the way -all led people to see God at work in His world, and as a result, they believed.

That is what is most important. Not that we get what we want, but that God and His works be seen and known among His people.

It is always the point in all of these encounters. The restoration of broken and

sick people, of sinful people. That God's glory be seen and be made known, and that our faith in Him as sovereign, be increased.

Because what seems to me to have been the "main story" here in Mark five (Jairus's daughter), turns out to be the catalyst for an encounter with a woman who has been suffering as long as this little girl has been alive.

-Mark 5:25 (ESV)

"And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years..."

-Mark 5:42 (ESV)

"And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement."

I have to admit here that I am an impatient person when it comes to getting to a destination. Far too often I have missed out on the drive, the views, and the conversation along the way because some fool in front of me has the audacity to go the speed limit.

I share that not as an illustration, although it is, but more as a confession. One where I have to admit I am far more like Jairus than I am this long-suffering

woman we meet here in our text this morning.

A great deal of our problem, at least in my experience, is that we are in too great a hurry to accomplish a life-time worth of stuff on a particular Wednesday afternoon.

Not realizing that we have much to learn, as much in fact along the way, as we do when we get to where God is moving us to.

This woman, nameless, so I want to call her Sarah, has a lot to teach us. In an impatient, short-memored world, we see in her, a long-term faithfulness in one direction.

A faithfulness which drove her to do something about her situation:

-Mark 5:24-26 (ESV)

"And he went with him. And a great crowd followed him and thronged about him. And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse."

Faith is a funny thing. We exercise faith in our lives because we believe in something, actually someone bigger than ourselves.

Yet, we also have faith in our abilities to do what we have been called and gifted to do. We have to learn the balance within these two truths.

This is what James defines as faith and works together. I will show you my faith by what I do. Yet, God working in and through our lives is never determined by how much faith we have or don't.

Next week, as we look at the man by the pool, we will see that he had no faith, yet God healed him. A very important doctrinal truth.

Faith as the Bible defines it is:

-Hebrews 11:1 (ESV)

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

That entire chapter in Hebrews goes on to give the list of names of the heroes who believed in the promises which God had made. Even though those promises were never fulfilled in their lifetimes.

-Hebrews 11:13 (ESV)

"These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and

having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.”

-Hebrews 11:27 (ESV)

“By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible.”

-Hebrews 11:39-40 (ESV)

“And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.”

Like this woman Sarah, all of these people were moved to do something because of their belief (faith).

I take the time to look at these things because it is important that we see Biblical faith for what it genuinely is.

First, it is a matter of the heart and the mind. Unmeasurable, an assurance, as the writer to the Hebrews says. An assurance of things hoped for. (The heart)

We will come to the Lord's table this morning in that same faith. Believing that Jesus Died for our sins, that He rose and will return. Doing these things in remembrance of Him, by faith.

It is also the conviction or evidence (KJV) of things not seen. So, it is also rational, it is reasoned. Having faith, for example, that you can fly, and doing so without a plane, is not faith. It is foolish, delusional.

Faith in something or someone means, that not only do you believe (heart), but that you have reason to believe (the head).

Sarah, here, didn't do what she did because it was the next thing on the list to try. Although that does make sense.

No, she had heard the reports about what Jesus had been doing, and had enough faith in those reports as being true as to act upon her belief that He could do something.

She put herself in a position, a place, to be able to exercise what she faithfully believed would heal her. Faith plus works.

-Mark 5:27-28 (ESV)

"She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. For she said, "If I touch even his garments, I will be made well."

As an aside, this does not then mean that God will heal this way all the time for

all time. Just as with our friend from last week who had been born blind. He made mud out of spit.

That doesn't mean we then set up a traveling mud ministry and healing show. That is not, nor has it ever been how God functions.

We need to understand that God, in His sovereignty, makes these decisions. It is not our jobs to somehow capture that and make a healing ministry out of it.

Frankly, and we will learn this next week, that our faith is not necessary for God to act on our behalf. Some miracles, such as this one, come about because we have exercised our faith.

However, there are times that in spite of our faith, or lack thereof, God still acts. As is the case next week, we will see that the miracle itself is what brings about a believing faith.

So, let's be very careful to always be grounded in God's word as it relates to faith, and not our feelings.

Too often people believe the unbiblical teaching that you have not been healed, or blessed, or whatever, because you lacked faith enough.

That is unsound and unbiblical teaching and thinking. It is always up to God, all of it. Sometimes He is faithful to operate though our acting upon our faith, and sometimes He acts in spite of it. But it is always Him.

In the middle of this huge crowd, who are all waiting to see if Jesus can heal the sick girl, Sarah takes the risk, unclean as she is, and reaches out to touch the corner of Jesus' garment.

God chose to act on that faith risk:

-Mark 5:29-30 (ESV)

"And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone out from him, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my garments?"

But the unexpected happened because Jesus knew something happened. Who touched my garment?

The disciples respond just as we would:

-Mark 5:31 (ESV)

"And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, 'Who touched me?'"

Are you crazy?! Do you see all these people? Everyone is touching you! People are pushing and rushing in and trying to get close to you. Who touched me? Seriously???

But you see, God has done something in that crowd, and Jesus wanted to recognize it. Why? To embarrass the person? No, but rather to validate them. To affirm her and her belief.

She believed, and she acted on that belief -faith.

She had taken a risk, because as an unclean woman to be that close in a crowd was wrong. Again, she was breaking "The Law."

Yet, there she was, and had hoped to be anonymous. In and out, back home before anyone even knew she was there.

But that didn't work for her. Jesus wouldn't let it go or pass without some sort of acknowledgement. When God does something in someone's life, it has to be declared.

Jesus doesn't want to embarrass her. He wants to restore her. He wants to reconcile her back to God, as God has healed her after twelve long years of suffering, of being unclean, and an outcast.

A daughter of the King has been healed,
been made right.

-Mark 5:32-33 (ESV)

"And he looked around to see who had done it. 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."

A public confession of what God has done privately. We are all called to do this. How could we, why would we, keep these things to ourselves.

Baptism -happening in a few weeks is exactly that. An outward declaration of what God has worked in you. Some folks like to share their testimony of what God has done during their baptism. It is a beautiful thing, not an embarrassing thing.

When Jesus captures our hearts, heals us, heals our homes, restores our marriages, our kids, our relationships -provides for us in ways that we cannot explain, why wouldn't we share that, acknowledge that and thank Him for it?

Yes, she had to act on her faith, and in that instance, that acting, that taking of the risk to step out of her comfort zone -is what brought the blessing.

Verse 34 is so beautiful, so important:

-Mark 5:34 (ESV)

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

Daughter. Not woman, not lady, but daughter. Such a personal calling and acknowledgement. You are a daughter of the King of the universe, and you are healed and restored.

God in heaven, has worked through Jesus His son, and yet, God wants to acknowledge what His daughter's obedience to trust Him and to believe has brought about.

She believed, like the heroes of old, that God would do what He promised.

Application:

God always hears and answers the prayers of believing people-He just doesn't do it in the way we like or expect. BUT, He always answers the prayers of His children.

Why He heals sometimes on this side of eternity, and at other times by bringing His children to glory through death, I do not know. It's not for me to know.

However, God gives us what we need, because He knows what we do not. If we knew what He knows, we would pray much differently than we do.

Perhaps that is why Jesus taught us to pray, at least to start in this way:

"Your will be done, on earth, as in Heaven."

It's not about what we think is best, it is about what God knows is best.

In eternity this will all make sense, even if sometimes right now it doesn't. But we have to trust in God's sovereignty and providential care over us.

He knows what we need and what is best. Faith and trust in Him to fulfill His promises is what the heroes of old were commended for, remember?

They all died believing in the promises of God, even though they did not see them this side of eternity. That is, they never saw Jesus, at least not on this side of eternity. But they believed, and we are told that this world was not worthy of them.

Because of Jesus, the most important healing of all has happened. The curse of Adam has been removed, has been dealt with on the cross.

Sin has been dealt with and our years of separation from God have been restored and redeemed because of the blood of Jesus.

Our faith in that truth is what makes us well. I offer Him to you this morning, the Jesus of Nazareth. If you have never done so, consider Him this morning, come to Him, be restored, redeemed, healed.

He will bring you peace in the midst of a troubled and trying world.

-Amen.