

Lutheran Church of the Master
580 Kuhn Road, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188
Curt Gerald, Interim Pastor
June 27 (5:00PM) / June 28 (10:45AM), 2009
4th Sunday after Pentecost
“Gathered Around the Word: Blest Interruptions”

Mark 5:21-43 (New International Version)

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 kum!" (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.

So what would you have said ...

If you were Jairus' friend ... and his little girl was dieing ... and Jesus is on his way to heal ... and he gets delayed? After all, we don't have time to waste! Time is flying. Stay focused. Don't take that call. Just walk on by.

If you were one of the disciples ... wanting Jesus to make a good showing at Jairus' house ... and Jesus is asking who touched him? After all ... there is a crowd around you, Lord ... of course someone touched you. DUH!

If you were waiting at the house ... and the little girl died ... and you hear that Jesus didn't just rush on over ... but he actually got into some sort of snit about being touched ... which made him delay ... and now? Don't bother, Lord. We weren't important enough to you ... to you to play around instead of get here like we told you to.

If you were that woman who just knew that if she could just touch Jesus she could be healed? And then, when you did, he actually turned around and asked who did it? Would you have said, "I'm sorry ... I didn't mean to do it ... I didn't want to bother you ... I didn't mean to delay you ... but ... WOW ... I'm healed. Thank you, Jesus."

I wonder what the little 12 year old girl said ... "Sir, what are you doing here? Boy, did I have a weird dream. I don't know who you are, but, I'm hungry. Do you have something to eat?"

We do know what Jesus said ... simply ...

³⁴He said to the woman, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."

⁴¹He took her by the hand and said to the little girl, "Talitha koum!" (which means, "Little girl, I say to you, get up!").

And that, after all, is really all that matters.

You see, there is a theme going here ... we heard it first in Genesis ... God spoke ... and it was so. At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit blows and the people speak. Here Jesus speaks ... and it happens.

Some might get caught up in the why or in the how or in the when ... but all we have is the WHO and the WHAT ... and the point of it is this: do you and I believe it?

You see, if we don't believe that Jesus could or did heal that woman ... and if you and I don't believe that Jesus could or did health that 12 year old girl ... then we probably don't believe that Jesus can do anything with or for us either.

And how tragic that would be.

So how about James 5: ¹³Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. ¹⁴Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵And the prayer offered in faith

will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven.

¹⁶Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”