

Nov 18<sup>th</sup> 2007: Series on Mark: 5:21-6:6 Faith on Display

Heb 11:6      *“Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that he exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.”*

The three stories in Mark’s Gospel.....looking at...proclaim the truth of that statement  
It shows people coming to Jesus....**The extent** of their faith in Him ....**And** the result....interaction

- **The first...5:21f.....The story of Jairus**

**When Jesus landed.....**crowd was great.....(gathered on top of Him)

And yet somehow Jairus.....*Perhaps by virtue of his standing*.....manages to get to Jesus  
....falls at His feet.....and pleads.....**THIS is Earnest Seeking**

- **His statement of faith is impressive.....**It allows for no doubt  
    *.v23 My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live*

**Jairus is one of the synagogue rulers.....**He is in charge of a Jewish place of Worship  
Part of the establishment.....against Jesus

**He is an Important Person.....**power...authority.....influence

**He is a Religious Person**

**He is a Wealthy Person**

**Normally a man such as Jairus.....**would not approach Jesus.....**except** at the door of synagogue  
**He would** be the last person.....expect to see.....in a crowd.....face down at the feet of Jesus

- **But Jairus was also a desperate Person**

His little girl.....just 12 years old.....was at the point of death

**We can** surmise that he and his wife.....had tried every avenue....that his position and wealth could open

**They** had got to the point where they had just about given up hope

**Even at that moment.....**the mother was at home by her dying daughter’s bedside

They had already booked.....and no doubt paid for.....a group of professional mourners....to

**Yet they** had heard about Jesus.....and something within his heart.....**compelled** Jairus to seek Him out  
**That something was faith.....born of desperation**

**However once he started on that journey of faith.....**It was far from straightforward

Jesus immediately went with Him.....as did this huge crowd surging along behind

**But in that crowd** was yet another desperate person who reached out to Jesus

→and brought about the delay.....that made his situation...so much worse

- We've just read the story.....
- How this woman subject to bleeding for 12 yrs....also had faith in Jesus

**She said to herself** *“If I just touch His clothes, I will be healed.”* **And she Did...and She Was !!!**  
**And altho** Jesus had not initiated.....**HE knew** it had happened....

**And Jesus stopped.....**

- Can you imagine how Jairus felt at this point ??

**I see him scurrying on ahead.....His mind racing....heart churning.....**  
**Suddenly realising that Jesus...**

**He turns and theres Jesus....**addressing some incident in the crowd  
**Jairus' daughter is dying.....**She could already be dead.....And Jesus is talking to some wretched ..

*(Supermarket line exp...)*

- **But what of this woman....**who Jesus heals.....**Whose faith** He commends.....  
**Whom He warmly calls.....**Daughter **?????**

**Well she couldn't be more different to Jairus**

**He is Important.....****She is totally unimportant.....**On account of her illness....an outcast  
**Rejected** by society.....A woman....But also a woman on her own

**He is Religious.....**she ..**Religious Reject.....**No doubt...a belief in God...But no way of practicing

**He is wealthy** She is **Poverty Stricken.....**All she had had gone to the doctors....She had pursued any and every avenue open to her.....**She had used** all she had...worse rather than better

**But This They had in common**  
**They were both desperate.....**

- She after 12 years of suffering....and getting nowhere  
**He .....with his little girl who had graced his life for 12years..and now about to lose her**  
**desperate.....for the Lord's intervention**

- **And the wonderful thing.....the Lord responded to both of them**  
**One was just so important....so influential .....so wealthy.....**And he came right to up the Lord  
**So open in his declaration of Faith**

**The other was consider worthless.....An embarrassment upon Society**  
**A woman on her own to be avoided.....Nothing to offer.....Nothing to give**  
**Sneaking up behind Jesus to touch.....Hoping not to be discover**  
**So weak and hidden....in her tentative declaration of Faith**

**And Jesus was there for them both.....as He is for you.....whoever you are.....There for me**  
(ROY)

- **That didn't mean that their faith journey was easy.....straightforward**  
The woman needed to declare herself.....To stand and own her faith
- **For Jairus it was even worse**  
**He wanted instant attention.....Yet Jesus stopped** to talk to some outcast
- **And then.....came the news.....Your daughter is dead.....**  
You're needed at home.....The mourners are already on the job....you need to arrange a funeral
- **What seemed like an answer just minutes before.....was now a waste of effort**  
Yet Jesus turns to Jairus and says: Don't fear; just go on believing

**And there are times when it seems.....Our faith received the answer.....**only** to have it snatched away**  
**And Jesus says.....Don't fear.....Just go on believing**

- **And so it is.....**that as we read on....we come to this delightful little family scene  
**Just the parents.....Peter, James and John.....Jesus and the dead little girl**  
**Whose hand Jesus took.....and said to her in the Aramaic tongue.....everyday language**  
**Little girl, I say to you, get up....**And the girl was raised from the dead

**The Awesome power of Jesus: Stills the storm.....Casts out 2,000 demons...Overcomes death**

**This is the Jesus who Lives...Whose presence is in this place...Who offers to all who exercise faith in Him**  
A victory.....through the cross.....over the second death.....A death which is eternal

**For He gives us life....that grows and grows.....making death the doorway into eternal life**

- **But what of the third story about Faith**  
Well that is a sad one.....found in 6:1-6

**It happened in the synagogue in Nazareth.....the place where He grew up**

**Once again** His teaching amazed everyone...  
Once again it was to those who knew & spoke of His miracles

**But they refused to know Him....as more than the carpenter**

- **Like many in our world today....** They refused to accept their need of His power  
**They were self sufficient.....and instead of turning towards Him.....they turned against Him**  
**For they took offence at Him**

**Verse 5-6 reads.....He hid His power from them.....and walked away**

**No one can afford for that to happen.....Whether** we already know Him.....  
**But have** become careless.....Weak in our faith

- **Or have yet to really seek His face as Saviour**
- **Whether we are conscious of great needs.....Or doing nicely with no real needs**

**We all need Him.....All need to exercise faith in Him.....All need to say....Here I am....I believe**  
**Fill my life with your power.....Use me in your service**