

Mark 5:21-43
Jesus Can Work with Our Flaws not Our Distrust
3/20/22

ILL: A **Woman** said the following to a **Clerk** in a crowded shoe store: "I want to exchange these snakeskin shoes. See those scratches—the shoes are **imperfect!**" The Clerk saw some tiny little scratches, but just the same he brought out another pair. She examined them carefully and said, "These are **scratched**, too." A few minutes later the Clerk returned w/ **6** pairs of shoes. But, she found a **Flaw** in each pair. "They're all imperfect!" she complained as she discarded the last pair. Then, the Clerk said wearily, "Mam, I'm not perfect; you're not perfect. How can you expect a **snake** to be perfect?"

RN: Does God look at our Flaws and **discard** us? If our Flaws don't repulse Him, **what does**? Or, how about this, can anything about us ever **appeal** to God?

AN: Truly, God is our merciful Creator Who knows all about our Flaws, but He still grants us Compassion and Mercy. And, God is especially inclined to do so when He sees that we humbly—**even if imperfectly**—Trust Him to care for us. This **appeals** to Him!

BI: Our **Flaws** don't put Jesus off when He sees that we **Trust** Him, b/c He can work w/ our Flaws, not our Distrust. **Please turn in your Bible to Mk 5:21-43.**

- I. This morning, we'll see why a **VIP** pleads for Jesus' help.
- II. And, we'll see how Flawed Trust heals a **Suffering Woman**.
- III. Finally, we'll see what happens when Jesus wakes up a **Little Girl**.

Jesus can work w/ our Flaws not our Distrust.

*(Mk 5:21-43) forms another literary **sandwich**. The healing of a chronically sick woman divides the healing of a mortally ill child. And, Mark uses these **2** stories to say that the sick woman's Faith is a model for the sick girl's **VIP Dad** to imitate.*

*But, Mark also returns to the topic of **uncleanness**: Last time, He began w/ the unclean **Gerasene** demonic. And, now, he centers on an unclean hemorrhaging Woman in the middle of a story that begins and ends w/ an unclean dying Girl. As such, Mark focuses on ritual uncleanness versus moral uncleanness (**Distrust**). And, he uses these stories to say that **disbelieving** Jesus is infinitely worse than a person's ritual uncleanness.*

(TRN) In (21-24), a synagogue official **pleads** for Jesus' help

Mark 5:21-24 (NASB95) ²¹ **When Jesus had crossed over again in the boat to the other side, a large Crowd gathered around Him; and so He stayed by the seashore.** ²² **One of the synagogue officials named Jairus came up, and on**

seeing Him, fell at His feet²³ and implored Him earnestly, saying, "My little daughter is at the point of death; please come and lay Your hands on her, so that she will get well and live."²⁴ And He went off with him; and a large Crowd was following Him and pressing in on Him.

(21-24) After freeing the **Gerasene** demoniac, Jesus and His Followers sail back to **Capernaum**. And, when Jesus lands, **Jarius**, a synagogue official, meets Him.

A. Now, Jarius is the administrator at the local synagogue. And, everyone respects him very much. But, Jarius is desperate!

1. His only child, a **Little Girl**, is dying (Lk 8:42). And, he's willing to ask Jesus for help despite what the other religious leaders may think of Him.

B. Jarius has probably seen Jesus' miracles. He's probably also seen the envy and malice that drive his colleagues nuts. But, he doesn't care. He's **crazy** w/ fear!

1. IOW, he'll even grovel in the dirt and repeatedly beg Jesus to lay His healing hand on his daughter, b/c his baby means the earth, the heavens, and the stars to him.

C. Jesus feels **deeply** for Jarius and says that He'll go. And, as Jesus leaves, the Crowd tags along, **bumping** into each other and Jesus as they follow Him.

D. ILL: *CONTEXT: Jesus teaches His Followers to persistently Trust that God answers prayer. Luke 18:2-8 (NASB95)² "In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect man.³ There was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, 'Give me legal protection from my opponent.'⁴ For a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, 'Even though I do not fear God nor respect man,⁵ yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, otherwise by continually coming she will wear me out.'⁶ And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge said;⁷ now, will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them?⁸ I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"*

E. APPL: Life can make us **crazy** w/ fear. But, we can **Trust** that we mean the earth, the heavens, and the stars to God.

Jesus answers our **shaky Trust**, b/c Jesus can work w/ our Flaws not our Distrust.

(TRN) In (25-34), **Flawed Trust** heals a Suffering Woman.

Mark 5:25-34 (NASB95)²⁵ *A woman who had had a hemorrhage for twelve years,²⁶ and had endured much at the hands of many physicians and had spent all that she had and was not helped at all, but rather had grown worse*

—²⁷ after hearing about Jesus, she came up in the Crowd behind Him and touched His cloak.²⁸ For she thought, "If I just touch His garments, I will get well."²⁹ Immediately the flow of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction.³⁰ Immediately Jesus, perceiving in Himself that the power proceeding from Him had gone forth, turned around in the Crowd and said, "Who touched My garments?"³¹ And His disciples said to Him, "You see the Crowd pressing in on You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?'"³² And He looked around to see the woman who had done this.³³ But the woman fearing and trembling, aware of what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth.³⁴ And He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace and be healed of your affliction."

(25-28) A **Suffering Woman** w/ a chronic flow of blood joins the **Crowd** following Jesus. She's had a serious, painful, embarrassing hemorrhage for **12** years. Doctors have **bankrupted** her, and they've only made her condition **worse**.

A. And, on top of every other disappointment, she must separate herself from society, b/c the **Lv 15:25-27** says that her blood flow makes her **ritually unclean** (Not always sin. Can mean not normal/alienated. Requires purification ritual to make normal/united.)

1. IOW, she is not only sick and tired of being sick and tired, and she's utterly sick and tired of being a lonely outcast. So, she decides to work out a **risky** solution.

B. She's heard stories about Jesus' miracles, and they've given her **Hope**. So, she decides to sneak up on Jesus and touch Him, b/c she Trusts that will **cure** her.

1. She's superstitious, so she believes that Jesus' healing power is in His robe. What's more, she's frantic—

C. Now, this Suffering Woman has **3** reasons for being sneaky: **1)** Rabbis aren't supposed to touch women. IOW, she's breaking a **social taboo**.

2) She doesn't want anybody to know about her embarrassing condition. IOW, she doesn't want to **compromise her modesty** in public.

3) She doesn't want Jesus to publicly scold her for her chutzpah. IOW, she doesn't want Jesus to **publicly humiliate** her.

D. Instead, she wants to swoop down like a hawk on Jesus, connect w/ His healing power, and then fly off before He or anybody else knows what hit Him.

1. So, to get her courage up she repeats to herself, "If I just touch His robe, I'll be OK. If I just touch his robe, I'll be OK. If I just ouch His robe, I'll be OK."

(29) So, this Suffering Woman tags Jesus, and—**immediately**—she senses a change in her body as her bleeding **stops**.

A. The **Greek** literally reads here that, **"She said to herself, 'I am healed.'"** And, Mark adds that her **"affliction"** is gone.

B. The Greek noun for affliction means **"beat w/ a whip; or suffer unrelenting pain from an illness."** IOW, **1** nanosecond after she touches Jesus, she's normal and free from **12** years of agony and shame.

(30-33) Jesus **immediately** feels healing power flowing out from Him, so He turns around and asks for the person who touched His clothes to speak up.

A. Jesus needs to glorify His Father and strengthen the Believer whom He's just healed as well as the Believers that He's going to heal.

1. And, His Followers say, **"We're packed like sardines, and everyone's bumping into You. How can we tell who touched You?"**

2. But, Jesus keeps looking for the person who touched Him. And, finally He sees the **Healed** Woman. And, you can imagine Jarius freaking out— **"Jesus, my daughter? Jesus, she needs You, too? Jesus, can't you take care of this woman later?"**

3. But, Jesus knows that you **can't rush** God's timing. Yes, He knows that Jarius' daughter needs Him. But, Jesus also knows this **Daughter of God** needs Him, too.

B. Now, at the same time, the Healed Woman is freaking out! She made Jesus **unclean** when she touched Him! What will He do to her? How badly will He yell at her? How deeply will He shame her? Oh where oh where can she hide?

1. But, she's trapped. So, shaking in her sandals, she falls at Jesus' feet and tells Him the whole story: She tells Him that she's been painfully hemorrhaging for **12** years.

2. She tells Him that doctors have bankrupted her, and they've only made her sicker. So, that's why she tried her sneaky attack.

3. She didn't mean any harm. She was just desperate. She's so sorry, but she didn't know what else to do! And, she tells Him how she's sick and tired of being sick and tired. And, she's been so lonely for so very, very, very long.

C. But, here's a crucial fact: Our uncleanness doesn't bother Jesus like our **Disbelief** does. Jesus can work w/ our uncleanness; He can't work w/ our Disbelief.

(34) Jesus says, **"Daughter, Don't be afraid. I understand. You're well now, b/c you Trust in Me. I free you from your plague—for good."**

A. By referring to this Healed Woman as **"daughter,"** Jesus reassures her that He has a fatherly, protective interest in her. And, this Truth helps to **calm** Jarius down.

1. Jarius is chomping at the bit, b/c his baby is sick. But, how can he deny Jesus' fatherly interest in God's baby in the Faith? Jesus feels what Jarius feels.

B. But, here's another consoling Truth: Jesus meets this Suffering Woman where her Faith is. IOW, as Flawed as her Faith is, Jesus accepts her, and He frees her.

C. As such this Healed Woman becomes a model of Faith for Jarius and us. She won't let anybody keep her from Trusting in Jesus, and He grants the desires of her heart.

D. What's more, now that Jesus has taken her uncleanness on Himself, she's clean, and so she can go back to her loved ones.

1. IOW, after meeting her most obvious physical need, Jesus meets deepest emotional need—**her need to love and be loved.**

E. ILL: *CONTEXT: Jesus' friend Lazarus has fallen desperately ill, but He delays going to him. [Excerpts] John 11:17-44 (NASB95) ¹⁷ So when Jesus came, He found that [Lazarus] had already been in the tomb four days. ²⁰ Martha therefore, when she heard that Jesus was coming, went to meet Him . . . and she said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² Even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?" [Then, Jesus goes to Lazarus' tomb] . . . ⁴¹ [And] Jesus said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. ⁴² I knew that You always hear Me; but because of the people standing around I said it, so that they may believe that You sent Me." ⁴³ [Then], He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" ⁴⁴ The man who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."*

F. APPL: Life can make us feel that God won't understand our impatience. But, Jesus says, **"Child, I understand. You're alive and free now, b/c you Trust in Me."**

Jesus can **reassure** us, b/c Jesus can work w/ our Flaws not our Distrust.

(TRN) In (35-43), Jesus **wakes up** a sleepy little girl

Mark 5:35–43 (NASB95) ³⁵ *While He was still speaking, they came from the [house of] the synagogue official, saying, "Your daughter has died; why trouble the Teacher anymore?"* ³⁶ *But Jesus, overhearing what was being spoken, said to the synagogue official, "Do not be afraid [any longer], only believe."* ³⁷ *And He allowed no one to accompany Him, except Peter and James and John the brother of James.* ³⁸ *They came to the house of the synagogue official; and He saw a commotion, and [people] loudly weeping and wailing.* ³⁹ *And entering in, He said to them, "Why make a commotion and weep? The child has not died but is asleep."* ⁴⁰ *They [began] laughing at Him. But putting them all out, He took along the child's father and mother and His own companions, and entered [the room] where the child was.* ⁴¹ *Taking the child by the hand, He said to her, "Talitha kum!" (Which translated means, "Little girl, I say to you, get up!")* ⁴² *Immediately the girl got up and [began] to walk, for she was twelve years old. And immediately they were completely astounded.* ⁴³ *And He gave them strict orders that no one should know about this, and He said that [something] should be given her to eat.*

(35-37) All attention turns from the Healed Woman to Jarius' servants. They take Jarius aside and say, **"Don't bother Jesus anymore. He can't help. She's gone."**

A. But, Jesus also hears the conversation and says to Jarius, **"Don't be afraid; just Trust Me."** IOW, Jesus says, **"Jarius, it's not over. There's one last action that you can take—keep Trusting in Me, even in death!"**

B. Then, Jesus takes His **Inner Circle** to Jarius' house. Jesus is equipping **Peter, James**, and James' kid brother, **John**, for their roles of leadership. He intends to strengthen their Faith, s/t they can persevere through the days to come.

(38-40) Now, when Jesus and His Inner Circle plus Jarius and his servants arrive, the place is going nuts, b/c **Rent-a-Wailers** are wailing. So, who are Rent-a-Wailers?

A. To show respect, 1st Century Jewish families hire professional flute players, dancers, and mourners to grieve for their dead, 1st at the home and then at the cemetery.

B. But, Jesus asks them why they're making w/ such a fuss, b/c the child's only asleep. Jesus is helping Jarius to take his eyes off the circumstances and Trust in Him.

1. IOW, this child is dead, but her death isn't permanent. Jesus is going to reverse her death and wake her up as if she were sleeping. **How?** B/c, He can—

C. But, the Rent-a-Wailers mock Jesus and laugh their heads off. So, Jesus takes charge of the situation. First, He boots the Rent-a-Wailers out.

1. IOW, Jesus acts as the **Master** of this house, b/c **He is**. And, He won't allow these mouthy Distrusters to disrespect Him or His work any longer.

2. Besides, their Distrusts assaults Jarius' fragile Faith. He's hanging on by a hair. Then, Jesus takes His Inner Circle, and Jarius and his wife into their Baby's room.

(41-43) Jesus takes the Child's hand in His own. And, the living God's life-giving power passes into her as He says, **"Little Girl, I Am telling you—Wake up."**

A. And, immediately, the **12**-year-old Girl sits up, gets out of bed, and walks to her parents. And, her Mom and Dad crumple into a heap of gasps and tears as they kiss and hug their Baby over and over again, praising God!

B. And, Jesus' Inner Circle stands w/ their mouths hanging open. Jesus has shown them in no uncertain terms that He is **The Resurrection** and **The Life** (Jn 11:25).

1. Jesus matter-of-factly takes the **dead** Girl's hand and tells her to wake up from death—**and she does**. No secret words. No nutty behavior. Jesus just orders her to live, and she does. IOW, she come backs, b/c Jesus **can** tell her to do so.

C. Jesus gives everyone strict orders—**"Keep this to yourselves."** He doesn't want to whip up the greedy Crowd. Do they? Your guess is as good as mine.

D. Then, Jesus takes care of the 2nd most pressing issue. He tells the Girl's Parents to fix her favorite food, b/c she's hungry. Then, the kid's got to go to soccer, ballet, and piano lessons. **Just kidding—**

E. ILL: *CONTEXT: Jesus demonstrates His Divine control of nature. Luke 8:22–25 (NASB95)* ²² **Now on one of [those] days Jesus and His disciples got into a boat, and He said to them, "Let us go over to the other side of the lake." So they launched out.** ²³ **But as they were sailing along He fell asleep; and a fierce gale of wind descended on the lake, and they [began] to be swamped and to be in danger.** ²⁴ **They came to Jesus and woke Him up, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" And He got up and rebuked the wind and the surging waves, and they stopped, and it became calm.** ²⁵ **And He said to them, "Where is your faith?" They were fearful and amazed, saying to one another, "Who then is this, that He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey Him?"**

F. APPL: Life can make our instincts go haywire and tempt us to Distrust Christ, but He calmly says, **"Don't be afraid. Trust Me. It's not over!"**

Jesus gives us hope, b/c Jesus can work w/ our Flaws not our Distrust.

ⁱ "Picky, Picky, Picky," INFOsearch Pro ver 4.3P.

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