

June 17, 2018 – Elmont Baptist Church
Message Series: The Gospel of Mark
Week 21: “Do Not Fear, Only Believe”
Text: Mark 5:21--43

We have launched into unpacking and understanding the Book of Mark. Mark’s audience is Romans believers, and as theologian Danny Akin says, “he is telling them that Jesus is the Messiah King and suffering servant who actively ministers on our behalf and gives his life as a ransom for many.”

Remember, Mark lays this out strategically where Jesus has just finished teaching through three parables about who He is for those who are ready to receive it and really listening. He is teaching them that He is worthy of all worship and glory, something only reserved for God, Yahweh, in their minds – meaning Jesus is God! Then he records Jesus showing or illustrating the truth of who He is through miracles. These miracles show His authority over nature, satan/demonic power, over disease, and over death. Now, if we think under the umbrella of the miracles, we see some great parallels. People in hopeless and catastrophic circumstances coming to Jesus and finding hope. Where death and misery reign, Jesus brings miraculous hope!

As one pastor said, “Biblical hope is a *confident expectation and desire for something good in the future*. Biblical hope not only desires something good for the future — it expects it to happen. And it not only expects it to happen — it is confident that it will happen.”

We Find Hope Through...

✓ The Love & Power of Jesus

- No matter your past
- No matter your problem

No matter your past – see the parallel –

For 12 years, Jairus had enjoyed the relationship with his daughter.

For 12 years, this woman, had been distanced from all relationships.

It doesn’t matter if your life has been great or troubled, you’re not good enough to deserve God’s love or bad enough to be beyond His love.

No matter your problem – from storms, to the attack of the enemy, to disease, even to death. This doesn’t mean that after Jesus ascended, His disciples never faced another storm, or that the demon delivered man was never tempted by the enemy, or the woman never got sick, or that Jairus’ daughter never died. Yes, Jesus changed their “right now”, but even more than that, He steadied their soul, but changing their eternal perspective.

✓ The Words & Presence of Jesus

- Getting close to Jesus is better
- Than the cost or the risk

Another parallel, or comparison, we see in this event is that in order to get close to Jesus, both Jairus and the woman took a risk and likely paid a price. Jairus was a leader in the synagogue. That means all his friends and colleagues hated Jesus. For him to openly come to Jesus, fall at His feet, and beg Jesus to help him, would have been likely sacrificing relationships, his career, and the respect of many in the community. But all of the sudden those things don’t matter. He comes close to Jesus. When things go from bad to worse, the words of Jesus steady his heart. The woman’s illness made her “unclean” according to Jewish law. For 12 years she couldn’t go into the temple to sacrifice or worship. Because she was unclean, no one could touch her, so for 12 years, she hadn’t been hugged or felt the compassionate touch of a friend. She would have to announce her uncleanness if she went out in public. Can you imagine? But today is different. She violates customs, laws, and traditions to get to Jesus. Mark includes the detail that there is a huge crowd pressed around Jesus. This means that in order to get to Jesus, this woman is brushing against and touching other people. She is taking a risk and tries to do it in anonymity, but Jesus doesn’t let that happen. She doesn’t just need Jesus’ power, she needs Jesus. His words comfort her.

Getting close to Jesus is always worth whatever the cost or risk may be. And there is always something you’re leaving behind or repenting of, when coming to Jesus.

✓ Loving & Obeying Jesus

- Grow in loving Him
- Obey by listening to Him

In every one of these miracles, Jesus speaks. He gives commands, comfort, instruction, and each time the response is obedience fueled by delight in and love for Jesus.

He says...

“Peace, be still” to the storm

“Go home and tell” to the demon delivered man

“Go in peace, and be healed” to the woman

“Do not fear, only believe” to Jairus

“I say to you, arise” to the little girl

This is the supernatural response to a life changed by Jesus! He speaks and we walk in obedience to Him out of love for and delight in Him.

Bottom line:

Jesus the hope we desperately need. It is most often that until we are faced with hopeless circumstances and catastrophes, we will try to manage our lives and entertain ourselves through our problems on our own. Throughout the sacred Scriptures it's those in the pain of hopelessness that find themselves at the feet of Jesus and, in turn, finding hope in Him through a changed heart, not just a changed circumstance.

Thinking it Through...

- ✓ **How has the love and power of Jesus overcome your past and problems to bring you hope?**
- ✓ **What is keeping you from getting close to Jesus?**
- ✓ **Are you walking in grace-fueled obedience to the things you know Jesus has told you (in the Scriptures)?**