

2025-10-12

Some People Will Try Anything

Mark 5:21-43

As you know, Sally and I have two daughters, Becky and Mary. Becky is now 43 years old and Mary is 40 years old. Sally is with Mary and her husband Erik. They have three boys. The oldest turns 16 tomorrow, October 13. Becky has two boys. They live in Glendale. Her oldest boy is 16 and driving. When our girls were young, I thought they were big problems. We were just trying to keep them alive. One time Becky had this serious nose infection. She was around 3 years old. Being low-income parents, we tried all the over-the-counter things first. We finally had to take her to the doctor. **During the examination** the doctor pulled out this 2-3-inch-long gross thing out of her nose. Once we saw it, I recognized that it was a piece of the dried flower decoration we had sitting on our table. From what we could come up with, Becky had broken off that piece and crammed that thing up her nose when we were not paying attention. Becky gave Sally another scare. They were visiting Sally's mom who lived in a cabin on a small lake in northern Wisconsin during the summer months. Somehow Becky wandered off into the woods. Sally frantically searched the beach area then the cabin. No Becky. Sally did not know what direction to go. She ran 50 yards down the dirt drive calling out for Becky. Still, no Becky. Sally returned to the cabin and her mom and her drove down their dirt driveway. There was Becky about 100 yards away from the cabin smelling flowers.

Mary did her share of wandering away. Once she was able to get onto a side street. When we caught up to her, she was staring down at a dead squirrel in the road. A great teachable moment to help her learn bad things could happen when children wander off. When Mary was around 2 years old, she became very ill. We took her to the emergency room. They ran all kinds of test. The doctors could not determine what was wrong. Her temperature got so high they had to pack her in ice. I can still hear my daughter crying out to me, "Daddy, make them stop!" One doctor told me that if they could not get her temperature lowered within so many hours, I should start making funeral arrangements. That will make anyone call out to God for mercy and help. I had some hours of intense prayer. Praise God, He answered our prayers. Our daughter pulled through. Eventually, the doctors treated Mary for pneumonia.

In our scripture reading today we have Jairus, one of the rulers of the synagogue coming to Jesus because his 12-year-old daughter was near death. As Jesus went to deal with that situation, a woman who had "*a flow of blood for 12 years*" and "*had spent all that she had*" came to Jesus for help. Let's remember the situations Jesus had just dwelt with. While in Capernaum the last time, Jesus had taught the people

in parables. Many people wanted to learn more and they followed Jesus. Jesus and these disciples left Capernaum to get away from this crowd. They went to the opposite shore of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus was trying to get some rest on the boat but the disciples became afraid of the storm and had to wake up Jesus to save them from perishing. With a simple command, Jesus calmed the water and the wind. When they did reach the other side of the lake, Jesus immediately had to deal with a man who was possessed with a legion of demons. When the towns people heard and saw what had happened, they wanted nothing to do with Jesus. They pleaded with Him to leave, so He did. Jesus and His disciples crossed the lake again. When He and His disciples reached the shore at Capernaum, the crowd regathered around Him. The only time Jesus was getting rest was while they were crossing the Sea of Galilee. This time in Capernaum one of the synagogue rules came to Jesus. We are not told but I am sure this man tried everything he knew to heal his daughter. He asked the Rabbi to pray. He asked the people in the synagogue to pray. His daughter kept getting worse. He was desperate. His daughter was near death. She probably had not eaten in days. Her breathing was getting shallower with each breath. Something had to be done immediately or she would die.

Jairus heard that Jesus had just arrived on the shore and He was coming into town. Jairus went to Jesus. *“When he saw Him, he fell at His feet.”* (5:22). Whatever his beliefs had been about traditions and Jesus, he laid them all aside and humbled himself before Jesus asking for His help. **In desperate situations people will try anything.** Jairus begged Jesus earnestly, *“My little daughter lies at the point of death. Come and lay Your hands on her, that she may be healed, and she will live”* (5:23). The word *“healed”* in the Greek fully means to be delivered or saved. Jesus could hear the concern in his voice and his cry for help. Jesus picked up His pace and went with Jairus to his daughter. A large crowd was all around Jesus. How many people were touching Jesus? There were too many to count. All of a sudden Jesus stopped. He looked around and asked, *“Who touched My clothes?”* (30). The disciples were quick to respond with, what do you mean? Lots of people are touching you. Jesus kept looking until He saw her, standing still with an expression of amazement on her face. She became afraid as she noticed Jesus staring at her. She too, *“came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth”* (5:33).

This woman *“had a flow of blood for twelve years, and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse”* (5:25-26). If she did not find a cure, she was going to bleed to death. **Some people will try anything.** She believed that if she could *“touch His clothes, I shall be made well”* (5:28). The words *“made well”* is the same word that Jairus used, that she would be delivered, saved by Jesus. She came up behind Him and touched

the edge of His garment and immediately she felt a change in her whole body. She was delivered. She was saved completely. She may have apologized thinking she had done something wrong. Jesus did not scold her or reprimand her. He did just the opposite, Jesus encouraged her. Jesus was pleased because “*without faith it is impossible to please God*” (Hebrews 11:6). Jesus said to the woman, “*Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace and be healed of your affliction*” (5:34). What a tender, personal response Jesus gave this woman. In the midst of His busyness, Jesus makes sure that this woman knows who delivered her and restored her life from her coming death. To go in peace? She had not had peace in 12 years. Now she can know the peace of God. While one daughter received life, another daughter died.

About that time some of Jairus’ friends came from his house and told him, “*Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further*” (5:35). What can be done after a person dies? While there is life, there is hope. Now that the daughter is dead, Jairus would have lost all faith and hope of any recovery. His greatest fear happened. Jesus overheard the conversation and told Jairus, “*Do not be afraid; only believe*” (5:36). Literally Jesus said, “**Stop fearing. Be faithing!**” The word “*believe*” is also the word for “*faith*” in the Greek. Jesus told Jairus, keep having faith or keep faithing. This is odd for us to say so we use the word “believe.” Jesus turned to the crowd and told them to leave. He also made most of His disciples wait probably in the town square. Jesus only allowed Peter, James and John to go with Him and Jairus.

When Jesus, Jairus, and the three disciples arrived at the house there was a great commotion. Mark does not tell us who is all at the house. If there were professional mourners there, the family expected their daughter to die. Whoever was there they were wailing loudly. This was expected at a death. Jesus said to them, “*Why make this commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping*” (5:39). These mourners thought Jesus was crazy. Maybe Jesus had not been around a dead person before. Maybe He does not know what a dead person looks like. This crowd made fun of Jesus. But Jesus took control of the situation and put everyone outside. Jesus took the father and mother and the three disciples with Him into the room where the girl was lying. The grief of the parents must have been great. Jesus took a firm grip on the girl’s hand and said, “*Talitha, cumi,*” meaning, “*Little girl, I say to you, arise*” (5:41). The girl immediately arose and began walking. I imagine she walked to her mother, then to her father and then to Jesus. The parents were overcome with amazement. Jesus told the parents two things. Give their daughter something to eat and do not tell anyone what had just happened.

What are we to make of this? I am glad that God answered our prayers and brought healing to our daughter so many years ago. But I also know several parents who

prayed just as fervently or more so than I did and their child died. In both of these cases Jesus used language that expressed more than just a physical healing. Jesus was concerned for the whole person, the soul and spirit as well as the physical. When I prayed for my daughter as she was packed in ice, I really wanted my daughter to live. I told God what I wanted. Though I also expressed to God that He knew what was best and I was willing to trust Him no matter the outcome. Now, it took me a while to get to this place in my prayer, but God brought me there. I was still committed to loving God and serving Him no matter what happened. I have known families who have walked away from God because of the death of a child. I have also seen parents grow in their faith and trust in God during their time of loss. I got to walk with my parents through the death of two of their children. Yes, they were older. My brother was 55 and my sister was 49 when they died. It is still hard on parents and other family members no matter their age.

Jesus, through life and death, teaches us to trust Him. In these two women's lives, Jesus restored each to life. One was going to bleed to death. The other had died. Physical healings are great. Many of us have experienced them. But physical healings do not get us into heaven. Hopefully they get us to trust in Jesus who can give us the greatest healing. Once we were dead in our trespasses and sins and God made us alive together with Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:1-5). Because God is great in mercy and love, He made it possible for us to receive the forgiveness of our sins. By God's great grace we are saved from judgment and death. We have the promise of God. *"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me"* Jesus said (John 14:1). He went on to say, *"In My Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also"* (John 14:2-3). I am glad to live in this world and help people find their way to Jesus. I am also glad that there is something more and better beyond this world, through faith in Jesus as Lord. Have that faith. Keep that faith.

Questions to ask yourself: Are you trusting Jesus? Can you trust Him when things do not go your way? As His plan for your life unfolds, will you trust and follow Him? **Actions to take:** Renew your commitment to trust and follow God.

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