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## LITTLE LAMB, ARISE! Part One

Jeffery D. Woodhams

Today we get to look at the lives of very different people who were affected by Jesus. I'm really excited to be able to share with you what I've learned from this passage today. Will you please turn to Mark 5? Let's read verses 21-24.

*<sup>21</sup> And when Jesus was passed over again by ship unto the other side, much people gathered unto him: and he was nigh unto the sea.*

*<sup>22</sup> And, behold, there cometh one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name; and when he saw him, he fell at his feet,*

*<sup>23</sup> And besought him greatly, saying, My little daughter lieth at the point of death: I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live.*

*<sup>24</sup> And Jesus went with him; and much people followed him, and thronged him.*

Now, as you recall, Jesus had been busy teaching and healing people for quite some time. He was finally just utterly exhausted. He asked his friends to take Him to the other side of the lake. In the meanwhile, Jesus fell asleep in the back of the boat. He was just whipped, you know? Well, a ferocious storm threatened to sink all the boats out there that day, and finally the disciples roused Jesus. He got up and calmed the storm, as only He could do! They were amazed!

The next thing you know, they all arrive at the other side of the lake, and they're immediately accosted by a maniac who is under the influence of we-don't-even-know-how-many demons. Jesus cast out the demons and healed the man; but a nearby herd of swine was affected by those demons and they ran helter-skelter down a cliff and into the sea and died. The people of that country turned out to see what had happened, and then what? They asked Jesus to leave! "Yeah, it's great that you healed that man, but what about our pigs? What about our money? You'd better just go, Jesus." And Jesus left. He had done for them a wonderful sign of love; but they had loved money rather than people.

So now, in the passage we're reading here, Jesus is back where He had started, or near it. Sure enough, the people once again turn out in droves. Jesus is at the height of His popularity with the regular folks; but if you recall, He's been totally rejected by the ruling religious authorities. He's shocked them too many times by doing such awful, unbelievable things as healing people on the Sabbath Day! No, they didn't want Jesus around. The religious leaders denounced Jesus and strictly warned synagogues not to welcome Him.

But what do we see there in verse 22? We see a man named Jairus, who is the ruler of the chief synagogue of the great city of Capernaum, coming to Jesus to beg Him to save his little girl. Now, Jairus knew all about this "rabble rouser," this rogue rabbi named Jesus. He knew that Jesus was not to be greeted or to be allowed to spread His teachings within the synagogue; yet he came to Jesus out of desperation. No one else could help his daughter. No one else had the ability to do anything for her. And so, in his grief and despair, he set aside his pride as a religious authority and came humbly to

Jesus, just like any other man. Gone is Jairus the ruler of the synagogue, the important elder of the assembly! Instead we find Jairus, the anxious father, humble, begging Jesus for an act of mercy.

I have never sat with a child near death. I do not know the fear and the terror that might bring to the heart of a parent. I do remember that when my oldest brother was twelve, he simply fell into a coma one night. Mom and Dad couldn't wake him. They took him to the hospital and found out that his brain had swollen. The doctors had no idea what had caused it or what might happen. For a few months up to that time, my brother had been going to a little church with our neighbors. My father and mother had even gone once or twice just to check it out. But when my brother went into that coma, and the doctors had no answers, my father went to the One Person who could help—Jesus.

It would be inaccurate to say that sickness was the reason my father became a Christian, though. The truth is that a member of that church had already asked him, “If you were to die today, do you know for sure that you would go to heaven?”—and my father did *not* know. But in the summer of 1980, my father trusted in Christ for salvation; and friends, that is a large part of the reason that I'm standing here before you today. As suddenly and mysteriously as my brother's condition appeared, so also it disappeared. I'm not suggesting at all that God caused my brother to become ill; but I do know that God used that bad circumstance for good, because He's big enough and wise enough to do that!

Some of you know better than I do the feelings of a parent watching a child suffer. That is what humbled Jairus and brought him to Jesus that day. He begged Jesus to come with him to his house and put His hand on the little girl. He had faith that a touch from Jesus would heal her. And Jesus did not hesitate to go with the anxious man.

Yet I'm reminded of another man who had a sick servant at home who asked Jesus just to speak the word to heal that servant. That man had said, “Jesus, you don't have to come to my house. Just speak the word and he'll be healed.” Let me ask you, which man had the greater faith?

My point is that even though Jesus knew He didn't necessarily need to go to Jairus' home, He went anyway, according to Jairus' request. Jairus' faith was weak, and his request reflected that; but one of the wonderful things about Jesus is that He meets us where we are. Do you know what that means? It means that it's not about *how much* faith you have; it's about the *basis* of your faith! A little tiny bit of faith in Jesus is infinitely better than a whole lot of faith in anything else.

So they begin to move to Jairus' house, but they are thronged by people. I mean, there are crowds of people. Everyone wants to see Jesus or talk to Him or get a favor from Him. He's a superstar among the regular folk, and stardom brings its own difficulties.

Let's look at one person who was in the crowd that day, though. Would you read the next few verses with me?

<sup>25</sup> *And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years,*

<sup>26</sup> *And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse,*

<sup>27</sup> *When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment.*

<sup>28</sup> *For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole.*

<sup>29</sup> *And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague.*

This poor woman had also come to see Jesus as her own last hope. She has a condition, a hemorrhage, which under Jewish law rendered her unclean. Not only is she herself unclean, but anyone she touches becomes unclean and has to be ceremonially purified. She's an outcast. She cannot go to the synagogue to worship. In fact, as leader of the synagogue in Capernaum, Jairus was probably the very one who had ordered that she not be allowed into the synagogue those twelve long years ago. Jairus' life had gone on as normal; but her life since then had been a continuous nightmare. She was ill, and using all of her money on doctor's fees, she had no remedy.

By law, she was considered to be under a curse; and oh, how she wanted to be free of that curse! According to the social custom, she should have simply stood away from the crowd and warned anyone who got too close to her that she was unclean. In her own desperation, she decided to forget about social customs. She pressed through that crowd to get to Jesus that day. Who knows how many people she touched and made ceremonially unclean? She had spent twelve years worrying about making other people unclean, but this day, she no longer cared. She just had to get to Jesus, and that's all she could think about. She believed that if she could only touch Jesus—just touch Him!—she would be cured.

She wormed her way through the crowd and finally got close to Jesus. She reached out, touched Him—and instantly knew that she had been healed. The hemorrhage stopped; but so did Jesus! Let's read.

<sup>30</sup> *And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes?*

<sup>31</sup> *And his disciples said unto him, Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me?*

I love the way Pastor Ray Stedman, who is now with the Lord, framed these verses:

This incident indicates, too, that the healing was really not done by Jesus; it was done by the Father. Our Lord did not even know it was happening. It was not his willful choice that this woman be healed. She touched him, and the touch of faith drew from him the power to heal. But he did not even know it until it happened. This is confirmation of what Jesus himself tells us—that it was not he who did the healing or the speaking; it was the Father who dwelt in him. An all-seeing God watched this woman push her way through the crowd, saw the faith in her heart. And when, in the midst of that crowd pressing all around Jesus and touching him in a dozen different ways, he saw this woman reach out and touch his garment, instantly the power of God flowed through the life of Jesus and healed her. This is what Jesus said: "It is not I who do the works, but the Father who dwells in me," (John 14:10).<sup>1</sup>

Now, His disciples thought he was crazy to ask such a question as, "Who touched me?" They were astonished because people had been bumping Him and touching Him constantly since He got off the boat. But Jesus sensed something had changed. The King James Version says that "virtue" had gone out of Him. We don't really know what that means exactly, but we can get a pretty good idea. You remember that Jesus was utterly physically exhausted after healing all those people before? Apparently when Jesus was in His physical body this kind of thing drained some of His energy. He was 100% God,

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<sup>1</sup> Ray Stedman, "The Weakness of the World." 12 January 1975. Available at <http://www.raystedman.org/new-testament/mark/the-weakness-of-the-world>

but also 100% man, and as a man the work of healing was just that—it was work. Like I said, we don't know exactly how that works out because we're doing the kinds of healings that He did. The point is, Jesus felt, not the touch—there were many people physically touching Him—but a sense of draining of some of His healing power.

Let's finish this portion of Scripture today, shall we?

<sup>32</sup> *And he looked round about to see her that had done this thing.*

<sup>33</sup> *But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth.*

<sup>34</sup> *And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.*

In your mind, I want you to imagine the shame and embarrassment of this woman. She has to admit in front of the whole crowd—in front of the leader of the synagogue, no less—what she has done. She breaks down and tells all: her curse, her uncleanness, her attempts to be healed over the years, and how this very day she had pressed through the crowd making everyone unclean. In fact, her intention to be healed would have even made Jesus unclean! She has to admit all of this in front of everyone.

The next part is incredibly tender. Jesus uses a word here which He never used elsewhere in Scripture: *daughter*. He calls her “daughter.” It's just like Jesus to take the person who has been ashamed, the person who has lived under guilt and despair, and at that low point speak the word of encouragement and love that she needed to hear. There are many other such examples in Scripture of Jesus showing great tenderness and love; but for this woman, the word that she needed to hear was “daughter.”

And then He says something surprising. He says (literally), “Go *into* peace.” We have it as “Go in peace” but it's “Go into peace, and be whole of thy plague.” He tells her to go into peace and be healed. Now, wait a minute... wasn't she already healed? For the moment, yes, she was healed; but it is this word from Jesus that makes the healing permanent. I think that if she had sneaked away and not owned up to what she had done, she would have found that healing to be temporary; but she came to Jesus, admitted all, and was permanently healed.

We are going to come back to this passage next week and find out about that little girl. For today, I want you to understand that Jesus loves us in ways that only He can love us. I want you to understand that Jesus can bring peace and healing into hearts and lives that the world has broken. I want you to understand that it's not about the amount of your faith, but the object of your faith. A little faith in God is infinitely better than a lot of faith in yourself, your family, your social status, your job, your money, your entertainment, your intelligence, your *anything*.

Jesus loves me, this I know,  
For the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to Him belong;  
They are weak but He is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me,  
Yes, Jesus loves me,  
Yes, Jesus loves me,  
The Bible tells me so.