

Title: TWO HEALINGS, MARK 5:21 – 43
(Chatham, NJ 06/28/09, AM) [Pc – Narrative]

Theme: As we encounter Jesus in the episodes recounting two healing, we are changed by experiencing his power and personality.

Purpose: To explain how the power and personality of Christ affected the individuals and families healed by him.

Introduction:

1. The power of Christ to heal is one of the most important factors that led people to believe in him; it leads us to the same belief.
2. People were drawn to him because of his power and their need.
3. These two episodes from Christ's life exemplify not only his power to help them but also his confidence to carry out his mission to conquer suffering and death.
4. The episode begins on the beach; there is a crowd; a synagogue ruler pleads for his 12-year-old daughter.

I. How are the individuals emotionally involved?

A. The woman.

1. She must have heard he was in the area; she had a chronic illness.
2. There was no medical cure (Mark puts in a detail in verse 26 that Luke, the physician, leaves out). We are told only that she bled, possibly internally.
3. She was broke, economically distressed, and surely emotionally distressed.
4. Yet Jesus offered her hope which was fulfilled by touching him (28).
5. This was a last-ditch ploy by a desperate person but a person of faith.
6. What was life like afterwards? We don't follow her life, but we may imagine how it must have changed.

B. Jairus (a synagogue ruler; is this not amazing) and his wife.

1. Mark says he fell at Jesus' feet and "implored him earnestly" to heal his daughter who was apparently sick to the point of death.
2. The death of a child is surely one of the most painful experiences.
3. We expect it for a person advanced in years; we hope all children get the chance to live a full life; we want that for our children and sacrifice on their behalf.
4. We might feel as if we'd prefer such suffering fall upon us.
5. Can you imagine their relief and joy? Whenever he and his wife looked at her, could they have felt anything but gratitude and good fortune that Jesus had come by exactly when he did?
6. And how would this affect his relationship with other rulers who opposed Jesus?

C. The daughter.

1. Obviously we have no initial comment from her; she was the silent victim.
2. She dies before they reach the house; Jesus raises her.
3. What was her life like after that? What might her friends have said to her?
4. I wonder how it felt when everyone who knew her marveled (stared?) at her incessantly. (The Harry Potter series of books portrays him as chosen, and it causes him both notoriety and at times grief and regret.)

II. We also ask ourselves, “What is the conflict in these episodes?” (Conflict always reveals something about the characters involved.)

A. Illness, suffering, and death.

1. The first conflict is common to all of us.
2. Hebrews 2:15 speaks of the fear of death that has held us in lifelong slavery.
3. In some cases suffering results from the direct intervention of evil forces.
4. Whether they cause us to suffer and die is beside the point; the reality of evil must be a mainstay of our understanding of the world, Ephesians 6:10-12.
5. Jesus confronts and conquers it.

B. The commotion of the crowds.

1. By this time Jesus cannot work without attracting a lot of attention, Mark 1:45.
2. His enemies scrutinized him carefully looking for an excuse to shame him.
3. People wanted him, sometimes desperately.
4. He was well-known, sought after, and often despised.
5. Yet he sticks with the mission.

C. Those who didn't believe.

1. I can see the amazement of the disciples when he stopped because someone touched him; most likely they were trying to clear the crowds.
2. I can see his calm demeanor when the crowd at Jairus' house laughs at his comment, verse 39-40.
3. I can see his confidence as he clears the house.

III. What do we learn that attracts us to Jesus?

A. Confident and in control.

1. He is unruffled by the crowd; he rises above the commotion: he perceives that one person touches him in a special way.
2. He allows the laughter and faithlessness at Jairus' house to roll off him.
3. Jesus does not cow-tow to his critics.

B. He demonstrates patience and compassion.

1. First, he agrees quickly to go with Jairus.
2. Second, he treats the woman with compassion (she was trembling, 33-34).
3. Third, he takes the girl by the hand. What was the first moment like when they entered the room where she was?

C. He's got real power (beyond political clout and charisma).

1. With a mere touch of his garment a woman is healed.
2. The group in the room when he raises the girl is overcome (42).
3. Like those who need his help, we are driven to our knees in adoration.

Conclusion: How are we changed by this?

1. Jesus points us ultimately to the healing of our sin-sickness.
2. He challenges us to get engaged in the struggle with evil; we can win.
3. His power and compassion compel our allegiance, otherwise known as faith.
4. As we are drawn into these stories, we too are drawn into his life and work.