
20. Mk 5:21-34 They were all her witnesses (GCC—2/25/24)

Introduction

As I preach God's word to you, I want to serve you in two places.

1. I want to serve you at your table—serving God's goodness in His word.
2. I want to take you into the kitchen—so I can help you see how to prepare the food for yourselves, eventually.

Our God has placed two stories for us to see and read together, to understand more of God's love and wisdom.

- Their stories are meant to be intertwined, woven together.
- One common ground I found between these two stories is how neither people, who met Jesus, did not deserve to be there with Jesus.
 - The reasons are different, but the bottom line is, that neither deserved to meet Jesus, but they would—and did they ever.
 - I pray that each of us would also meet Jesus like they did.

Is Jesus safe to follow?

Our opening verse is easy to gloss over, but we shouldn't—so here, I want to take you into the kitchen.

- **Mk 5:21** —“When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around Him while He was by the lake.”
 - Reading a verse like this makes me is sad.
 - Remember, on the other side of the lake, was the Decapolis, where Jesus met the impure evil spirit living in the tomb, with two thousand pigs nearby.
- In other words, this large crowd gathered here in our verse, wanted Jesus, but they wouldn't follow Jesus wherever He went.
 - They followed as long as they were comfortable, but when Jesus crossed over to the Gentile land of Decapolis, there, they would draw the line, and would not follow Jesus.
 - And only when Jesus once again crossed over to their safe Jewish side of the lake, as we see here in v. 21, then and only then, they all came near to Jesus again, and wanted to absorbed all the goodness that Jesus could give.
 - So, what saddens me, is that they determine when and how to follow Jesus, and not submit and follow Jesus wherever He went.

May I humbly ask us, could we be doing a similar thing?

1. Do we follow Jesus only when we think it's safe, when we know He is not leading us to an uncomfortable place?
 2. Will we follow and obey Jesus, when He speaks about things really difficult for us to accept, like about your sexual life, or about your money, or the way you speak or serve or obey or worship—are there things that makes you uncomfortable in God's word; are you willing to get in the boat with Jesus and cross to the other side?
- May I lovingly ask us, do we follow Jesus only when we believe He is safe to follow?
 1. Will we follow Jesus only up to where we feel comfortable?
 2. Or, will we follow Jesus to the other side of the lake, even if it is a place we abhor, but because Jesus is going, we want to follow Him wherever He goes?

Jairus

Mk 5:22-23—“Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and **when he saw Jesus he fell at His feet**. He pleaded earnestly with Him, ‘My little daughter is dying. Please come and put Your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.’”

- Jairus' pride, his reputation, his colleagues, his friends didn't matter so much.
 - When his daughter is dying, nothing matters so much as to save her.
 - And, when he saw Jesus, believing Jesus could save his daughter, Jairus does what no Jewish synagogue leader should do to someone obviously inferior in the world's hierarchy, because the man he was kneeling to, was a lowly carpenter from none other than the land of an insignificant city, Nazareth, where no good things comes out, so all the Jews used to say.
- But, as soon as Jairus pleaded, what did Jesus do?
 - **Mk 5:24**—“So Jesus went with him.”
 - I love this verse; I love what Jesus does here—no fuss, no argument, no rebuke for all the opposition synagogue leaders like himself have done, Jesus simply went with him.
 1. How amazing, how surprising, how unusual to see the person you and your friends have vigorously attacked, yet, for Him to raise no objection, to go with you, to help save your daughter.
 2. Does Jesus not care how great of an enemy you have been?
 3. Has He not heard all the accusation and evil they threw to dirty His name and reputation?

Why would Jesus want to go and help Jairus, when all he has done, was to wrong Him?

- There truly is something amazing about Jesus, isn't there?
 - I can imagine Jairus walking with Jesus, sobbing out of guilt and shame for all the evil he and his companions had done to Jesus.
 - However, we will leave Jairus silent here until next week, because we will turn our focus to a woman, who also had no right to be there with Jesus.

- I love this, I love people who don't belong, yet, they are there with Jesus, anyway, because He truly accepts us, even when we are undeserving.

A woman

Mk 5:25-29—“And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind Him in the crowd and touched His cloak, because she thought, ‘If I just touch His clothes, I will be healed.’ Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.”

- For twelve years, we are told, she was subject to bleeding—what did this mean?
 - **Lev 15:25-27, 31**—“When a woman has a discharge of blood for many days at a time other than her monthly period or has a discharge that continues beyond her period, she will be unclean as long as she has the discharge, just as in the days of her period. Any bed she lies on while her discharge continues will be unclean, as is her bed during her monthly period, and anything she sits on will be unclean, as during her period. Anyone who touches them will be unclean; they must wash their clothes and bathe with water, and they will be unclean till evening.... You must keep the Israelites separate from things that make them unclean, so they will not die in their uncleanness for defiling My dwelling place, which is among them.”
- Did you see how much her uncleanness impacted her life?
 1. Because of her uncleanness—she was forbidden to enter into the gathering of God’s people to worship her God.
 - Did you hear?—she couldn’t go to worship every Lord’s Day, and sit together with her family and friends to worship their God.
 2. Because of her uncleanness—she could not touch any other person, which meant, she could not hug anyone, she could not sit with her family, to eat or just to chat, she could not attend any events, from weddings to funerals.
 - She was not welcomed to be anywhere near another person.
 3. Because of her uncleanness—she couldn’t even lie down in her own bed, or touch anything, and if she accidentally should touch anything, she would be washing everything.
 - Imagine, how exhausted she would be, constantly washing everything?
 4. Ostracized, scorned, and constantly hearing the lowly murmur or the look of “Oh, no, here she comes”—so, everyone kept their safe distance, to make sure, she cannot possibly be near them, to even slightly brush by them by accident.
 - After a while, I am imagining, she probably just sank into a corner, sitting, holding her bended knees, where she would touch no one, touch no thing, be a safe distance away from everyone and everything.
- Can you imagine, the loneliness, the awful sense of inferiority, the unwanted-ness she must have felt every single day?

- I am shocked that the pain, the suffering, the misery she endured each day, did not drive her to take her own life—oh, the unbearable pain she must have felt.

This is the woman we are meeting today because she has been subject to bleeding for twelve years.

- So, yes, it is clear that she was acting reckless and irresponsible, and we know this because of where we are finding her today in our passage.
 - **Mk 5:24-25**—“... A large crowd followed and pressed around Him. And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years.”
 - Did you see, the crowd was so large that everyone kept pressing unto each other, which means, everyone was touching each other, including this woman who was forbidden to touch anyone in her uncleanness?
 - By God’s law, her reckless act to go and touch Jesus’ cloak made everyone she touched “unclean,” including the very person she was seeking help from.
 - As we can see, in one sense, just to save herself, she made everyone around her, miserably unclean.
 - Normally, this kind of behavior, this attitude is horrible—because for her benefit, she is putting everyone else at risk, at harm’s way.
- But, she didn’t care, did she?
 - She wanted to be healed; she was desperate for her healing.
 1. By now, she understood, the doctors cannot heal her.
 2. All the power of the world, could not help her.
 3. Everything she leaned on, couldn’t help her from falling.
 4. After all of her failures, finally, she knew—only Jesus could heal her, only Jesus could deliver her, only Jesus could save her.
- In our lives, many of us do not learn to turn and trust in God alone, until we learn that everything we lean on, whether be doctors, money, or people, are not our true answers; they are not.
 - Sometimes, God allows us to learn this lesson with great patience, waiting for us to try everything else first, before we turn to Him.
 - Thankfully, sometimes, God would have us turn quicker to Him, and remove the staff we lean on, so that we would learn to lean on God alone.
 - Please understand this, when our God removes the staff we lean on, it is not to cause us to fall and suffer, but it is to help us to learn to lean on our God alone.

People of God, all Christians must learn this lesson, and the only question is, how long will it take for you to learn your lesson?

- How long will it take for you to learn that you cannot lean on anyone or anything in this world, but on God alone?

- Unfortunately, many of us do not learn this lesson, until we have been stripped away of everything, like the prodigal son.
 - How wonderful it would be, if we learned before the afflictions.

Jesus

So, as reckless as the woman was out of desperation, once again, let's behold Jesus' gentleness and beauty and awesomeness, as we see Him in His word.

- **Mk 5:30-34**—“At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from Him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, ‘Who touched My clothes?’ ‘You see the people crowding against You,’ His disciples answered, ‘and yet You can ask, ‘Who touched Me?’ But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. (I think there’s a long pause here, waiting...) Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at His feet and, trembling with fear, told Him the whole truth. He said to her, ‘Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.’”
 - Did you notice how completely Jesus ignored the disciples words?
 - Sometimes, what we have to say is better ignored than to have Jesus rebuke us, isn't it?
 - Remember, in v. 24, “And Jesus went with him (Jairus)”, so right now here in vv. 30-34, Jesus was on the road to Jairus' home.
 - Unknown to Jairus, his humble request to Jesus, opened up another request that would heal another person, a woman, whom he probably did not know.
- It is amazing what follows our decision.
 1. When Jonah disobeyed God, his sin brought all the people in the boat to the brink of death; his decision nearly killed everyone on board.
 - Let's understand, when we sin, others will also suffer because we are sinning.
 2. On the other hand, Jairus' humble request for Jesus brought an unexpected healing, for this gave a woman an opportunity to come near Jesus, without the people noticing her uncleanness because so many people pressed around Him.
 - The large crowd became the cover up she needed to touch Jesus' cloak.
- Did you know, when God's people obey our God, that usually produces an overflow of God's kindness to others around us?
 - It is true, both sin and grace usually spills over, they overflow.

Let's pay closer attention to **Jesus healing this woman**.

- With this woman, Jesus healed her immediately.
 - Jesus did not require her to honestly repent for her sins, before she was cleansed and healed.

- She was not to add any doctors or any other power to add to Jesus' healing.
 - The only requirement was for her to place her faith in the right place, and that was in Jesus, because He is the object of our faith.
- But, did you see, Jesus does so much more good than what she asked for?
 - Certainly, she was healed from her physical sickness, for the blood would no longer be discharged from her body.
 - She will actually have a clean body and clean clothes, because the running blood in her body has stopped.
 - No more cleaning up wherever she went, wherever she touched.
 - No more labeled as an unclean, defiled person.
- But, wait, there's more, when Jesus connected her healing with her faith, it was meant for her and for everyone to see what our faith in Jesus can do.
 - **Lk 19:10**—"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost (sinners)."
 - Jesus came to save her; she was saved from her sins, completely cleansed from all her sins, **is** what our faith in Jesus is meant to do.
- But, wait, there's more.
 - Why do you think Jesus stops marching to Jairus' home, and looks around and around and patiently waits for this woman to make her confession?
 - **Mk 5:32**—"But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it."
 - Amazing verse, our Lord is truly amazing.
- From Jairus' perspective, this could be so frustrating, because it could easily been seen as such a waste of valuable time, which they may not have very much of.
 1. I mean, his daughter was on the verge of death, and how much time she's got left, who knew; therefore, every second was precious.
 2. Yes, thank God this woman was healed, and if she is healed, then the job was done, so let's move on, please, please, there's no time to waste, let's go.
 3. His daughter may die just because Jesus is wasting precious seconds waiting for this hesitant woman to come forward and make her confession.
 4. By the way, if Jesus was God, then wouldn't He know who touched Him, and if He knew, then why not simply call her out, so she can instantly make her confession?
 - If you were in Jairus' shoes, and your child was dying—wouldn't you want Jesus to stop wasting time, wouldn't you want Jesus to hurry, wouldn't you beg Jesus please, let's go, there's no time to waste, every second counts; let's go.

Oh, by the way, did you catch the disciples' reaction to Jesus?

- **Mk 5:31**—"You see the people crowding against You,' His disciples answered, 'and **yet** You can ask, 'Who touched Me?'"

- In essence, what the disciples are saying is, “Are You kidding me right now. How can You ask such a foolish question. Don’t You see everyone is pressing against You, meaning everyone is literally touching You, or trying to touch You. So, how can You possibly ask, who’s touching Me. Jesus, for all of Your wisdom and knowledge, that’s got to be the worst question we have heard from You?”
- So, from Jairus’ probing eyes, to the disciples’ flabbergasted comments, to everyone’s push to touch Him, Jesus could have been easily distracted.
 - But, our God is not like us.
 - He does not get distracted from His purpose, nor does He ever not complete what He began (as we learned from Phil 1:6).
- So, **Jesus waits**, not because He didn’t know who done it, He did, but Jesus waits to help the woman come forward and make her confession.
 - Not forced, but voluntarily; not out of obligation, but out of love and gratitude.

Now, why is Jesus wanting such a public confession, when He already completed His work of healing, or did He?

- No, not quite.
 1. Jesus’ restoration for her, went much deeper than her physical healing, much further than to make her a citizen of His kingdom, much more than a simple beautiful public confession of her testimony.
 2. Jesus makes her make a public confession, so that everyone in her town, will witness that she really has received her complete healing.
 3. If the priest will need witnesses before he can declare her clean, they all could attest to her healing, because they were all there, waiting with Jesus, for her to confess.
 4. Now, when she came to the synagogue to worship with them, when she joined the wedding party, when she came to the marketplace—no one needed to avoid her, no one needed to be afraid that they might brush their skin against her and become “unclean”.
 - She would now be welcomed into every public place, to every home, to every gathering, because she was now “clean,” because Jesus cleansed her, and they all saw it and heard it, which is why, they could all become her witnesses.

In closing

Do you see, how complete, how perfect Jesus’ healing and restoration is for this woman?

- That’s how Jesus heals and restores His people, which includes you and I.
 - Not just barely enough to get by, but complete, even overflowing with more grace than we knew.

- That is why, God's people must always exhibit, must always display, must always reflect God's generosity when doing our good deeds.
 1. When we give our tithing, we must never have a heart that wants to give less, but joyfully and lovingly and thankfully offer generously, just as our God is generous to us.
 2. When we forgive others, our prayer is to forgive as Christ has graciously forgiven us, and not hold others according to our hurt and stingy hearts.
 3. When we love and serve and help others, we delight to do so with abundant kindness because our God showers us muchisimo, numchigeh, abundantly.
 4. So, when we worship and serve our God, we do so joyfully, thankfully, and out of our deep love for Him, loving Him more than our own lives, just as He loved us more than His own life on His cross.

- I love our Christian faith, because it's always **all about Jesus and what He has done.**
 - And my job is to never do anything out of my own strength, but to always look up to our God and overflowing in His grace, I give, I preach, I share what I have first received from our God, our Savior and Lord, Christ Jesus.
 - Our job is to tell others, what Jesus has done.
 - Because our lives is all about Jesus and what He has done, we also can become witnesses to the people around us, and tell them, **what Jesus has done.**

Prayer Time (Sabrina Henderson)

1. Pray for our church and our leaders—
 - Sabrina Henderson (Administration Ministry)
 - Tammy Moon (Fellowship Ministry)
 - Wei Zhao (Interim-Welcoming Ministry)
 - Joanna Kim (Finance Ministry)
 - Caty Krauter (Prayer Ministry)
 - Elder Frank Staszak (Mission Ministry)
 - Pastor Joshua Lee (Word Ministry)
 - For our new Praise Ministry Leader to appear soon
2. Pray for our church family—that our families will truly love our Lord Jesus most.
3. Pray for our worship—that we will taste His goodness in our worship throughout this year.

Church News

1. **Welcome**—
2. **Monthly Prayer Time** (11:10am-12noon)—will follow today after our fellowship. Join us, and let's pray together for our church.
3. **Easter** (3/31)—is coming up. To help prepare our hearts better, LCC has begun a 40 days of early morning prayer at 6am in their sanctuary (Tue-Sat), from 2/14-3/30.

March Sunday Calendar

- 3/3—**Worship** (Communion), followed by Fellowship and Devotion Time
- 3/10—**Worship**, followed by Fellowship and Devotion Time
- 3/17—**Worship**, followed by Fellowship @ Elder Frank's home (for the Hilgers' baby shower)
- 3/24—**Worship** (Palm Sunday), followed by Fellowship and Devotion Time
- 3/29 (Good Friday)—prayer time together @7:30pm
- 3/31—**Worship** (Easter Sunday), followed by Fellowship (celebrating our Risen Savior)

Weekday calendar

- 3/12 (Tue @7pm)—PLT Meeting (Provincial Leadership Team)
- Wednesdays (@8pm)—Prayer Warriors Meet

A wonderful Savior is Jesus my Lord (#391)

A wonderful Savior is Jesus my Lord, A wonderful Savior to me;
He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock, Where rivers of pleasure I see.
*He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock That shadows a dry, thirsty land
He hideth my life in the depths of His love, And covers me there with His hand, And covers me
there with His hand.

A wonderful Savior is Jesus my Lord, He taketh my burden away;
He holdeth me up, and I shall not be moved, He giveth me strength as my day.
*He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock That shadows a dry, thirsty land
He hideth my life in the depths of His love, And covers me there with His hand, And covers me
there with His hand.

With numberless blessings each moment, He crowns, And filled with His fullness divine,
I sing in my rapture, oh, glory to God For such a Redeemer as mine!
*He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock That shadows a dry, thirsty land
He hideth my life in the depths of His love, And covers me there with His hand, And covers me
there with His hand.

When clothed in His brightness, transported I rise To meet Him in clouds of the sky,
His perfect salvation, His wonderful love, I'll shout with the millions on high.
*He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock That shadows a dry, thirsty land
He hideth my life in the depths of His love, And covers me there with His hand, And covers me
there with His hand.

20. Mk 5:21-34 They were all her witnesses (GCC—2/25/24)

- **Mk 5:21** —“When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around Him while He was by the lake.”
- **Mk 5:22-23** —“Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and **when he saw Jesus he fell at His feet**. He pleaded earnestly with Him, ‘My little daughter is dying. Please come and put Your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.’”
- **Mk 5:24** —“So Jesus went with him.”
- **Mk 5:25-29** —“And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind Him in the crowd and touched His cloak, because she thought, ‘If I just touch His clothes, I will be healed.’ Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.”
- **Lev 15:25-27, 31** —“When a woman has a discharge of blood for many days at a time other than her monthly period or has a discharge that continues beyond her period, she will be unclean as long as she has the discharge, just as in the days of her period. Any bed she lies on while her discharge continues will be unclean, as is her bed during her monthly period, and anything she sits on will be unclean, as during her period. Anyone who touches them will be unclean; they must wash their clothes and bathe with water, and they will be unclean till evening.... You must keep the Israelites separate from things that make them unclean, so they will not die in their uncleanness for defiling My dwelling place, which is among them.”
- **Mk 5:24-25** —“... A large crowd followed and pressed around Him. And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years.”
- **Ps 119:67** —“Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey Your word.”
- **Mk 5:30-34** —“At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from Him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, ‘Who touched My clothes?’ ‘You see the people crowding against You,’ His disciples answered, ‘and yet You can ask, ‘Who touched Me?’ But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. (I think there’s a long pause here, waiting...) Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at His feet and, trembling with fear, told Him the whole truth. He said to her, ‘Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.’”
- **Lk 19:10** —“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost (sinners).”
- **Mk 5:31** —“You see the people crowding against You,’ His disciples answered, ‘and **yet** You can ask, ‘Who touched Me?’”