

6.27.21 Pastor Jordan Gades Sermon Mark 5:21-43

Grace and Peace to you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ Amen.

In today's gospel reading from Mark, Jesus does 2 very Jesus things and, as is his want, he does them in very Jesus ways as well. He gets begged to heal a religious leader's daughter and agrees but stops along the way, and in stopping this is letting her die. But he stops just to make sure that all the world knows that he has almost inadvertently done an amazing miracle. Then he goes to the side of the dead girl, after making sure he is almost completely alone, and raises her up to complete wholeness and life, and makes anyone who saw it not say about it.

Now if you feel like your neck snapped back and forth with all those "Wait? What?'s and some slight whiplash is coming on you are not alone. This is a strange passage that tells of so many miraculous things.

The message that Jesus is trying to tell can easily get lost when we just read through hit or just hear the words once. So please open your bibles, once you get home later, and read through this chapter in Mark a couple more times.

Jesus jumps all over the places but somehow still sends out a profound message. It is a message about faith. About having Faith. About what is possible about faith and through faith. "Your Faith has Made you well. "Do not be afraid, only Believe!"

What is possible is for us to know healing, for us to know wholeness, for us to know Life! But it does not end there.

This message is not just for us. It's meant for everyone out there, outside of these doors. We go out and we offer healing, we offer hope, we offer new life. Something fundamentally different then the crappy message the world says to us all every day. We have been transformed by this message and we offer transformation to the world.

Through US, God offers something beautiful to the world. Let's take just a tiny line from today's reading. Jesus says Daughter, your faith has made you well. Can we dive into that one statement for half a second to see what our God brings to our lives? First Daughter, First Jesus is 30, and this woman has been sick for at least 12 years, they are probably close in age if not her being older. And this is some random woman, a woman who has most likely been seen as an outcast as unclean, unworthy for the last 12 years, and he names her daughter. You, random stranger, you are so loved and cared by me, as if you were my beloved daughter. Can you imagine that? That invitation into relationship with God. Ya'll if Jesus came here today and said Son, you're doing a great job, well that just might make my whole life. This is the calling of this woman into the family of Christ. This family that we are all a vital part of. This family is what the world so desperately needs right now. As a whole we are getting more and more separated and

alone. We are getting more and more desperate and afraid. Our God stands against that and we stand against that.

And then after that proclamation, Jesus finishes with “your faith has made you well”. Here is where the grace of God shines through straight into our hearts, and out of us as a beacon for the world. Your faith has made you well. Your faith has Changed you. And that’s something that is hard for us to live out in our day to day lives. I’ll tell you why though I think you can already guess. I say this not to judge but rather to just shine a light. So often when we do something for others we do it with the expectation of being paid, rewarded, or otherwise reimbursed. And it’s so ingrained in us that we don’t do things unless we see a reward at the end. There might have been a voice in your head that said Well Jesus could have easily have turned around and said, for that healing it will be 2 denarii but he didn’t. That same voice was in that woman’s head, she was expecting to have to somehow pay for her miracle and she was greeted as family and given this new life as a gift.

This is the invitation that we bring to the world. To those who are sick, to those who are alone, to those who are dying. We step into this world and act like Jesus acts.

Jesus heard the cry for healing and acted. Jesus heard the silent cry in faith and acted. Jesus saw the mourning people and acted.

Jesus isn’t expecting us do everything in some perfect way or in some perfect order. But Jesus Never stepped back from where he was needed. He didn’t then and he doesn’t now. The world needs to know of this amazing God. Needs to be invited in to learn more, this world needs to be brought together as a part of this amazing family. And its up to us to act. Step up and act.

And there is one last thing that I will name before I close. Jesus doesn’t just act. He names what has happened and why it has happened. Jesus could have kept walking by the woman he had healed. He could have just healed the young girl from afar. But instead he made sure that everyone understood what was happening and why he was doing it. When you feed the hungry, cloth the naked, heal the sick, when you show genuine concern for co workers and neighbors, when you help unasked for, when you pay for that person’s coffee, every one of those things become an invitation to share why we do what we do and what has been done for us.

This is the life we have been baptized into. This is the life we share with our God, Who supports us, loves us, cares for us. Amen.