

Life can be full of setbacks, sufferings, and surprises. Did you hear about the milk cow that tried to jump over the barbed wire fence? It was an udder disaster. Or the guy who fell into a furniture upholstery machine? He is fully recovered. How about the guy who had his entire left side of his body cut off? He's alright now. One more – did you hear about the butcher who accidentally backed into his meat grinder? He got a little behind in his work. **STOP IT!**

I did hear of a man who came home from work one evening to find his wife, the mother of (3) preschoolers looking terribly upset. He could tell she was about to deliver some bad news – so he held up his hand and said, “Honey, I had a really bad day at work and can't handle any more bad news. So whatever you do, please don't give me any bad news. Give me some good news.” His wife looked at him and said, “Okay. You have (3) children – and today (2) of them didn't fall out of a tree and break their arms.”

Okay, seriously, did you hear about the man whose daughter was at the brink of death who fell at the feet of Jesus and begged the Savior to come His house to touch his daughter – and about the woman who'd been sick for 12 yrs. who got in the way? These are true stories we're going to look at today to discover that Jesus is POWER. **Read *Mark 5:21-43***

For the past few weeks we've been in a series of lessons seeking to discover who Jesus is based on His personal encounters w/ people during His earthly ministry. So far we've seen that Jesus is GERNEROUS (Nicodemus), that Jesus is MERCY (Woman in Adultery), and that Jesus is HEALER (Blind Man). This AM, we're going to experience that Jesus is POWER.

In this great story of healing we discover a marvelous truth about God – *The ground is level at the foot of the cross.*

No matter who you are or what you've done, Jesus is an equal opportunity Savior and healer. We learn that God is for anyone and everyone who'll turn and trust in Him. He is for the rich and the poor, the sick and the well, the good and the bad, the hopeful and the hopeless – **and He is for you!**

As this narrative opens – Jesus is returning from the other side of the Sea of Galilee after freeing a man of a legion of demons. As he returns, the people are eagerly awaiting His ministry, and immediately He is engulfed by the crowd.

Among those in the crowd anxiously awaiting His return were two very contrasting souls. One was a respected man; and the other was a rejected woman. One was rich and the other was poor; one was there for someone else and the other was there for herself – yet both were desperate for Jesus – and what they found was the power of God.

I His Power is OVERFLOWING

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.

Then one of the synagogue rulers, named Jairus, came there. Seeing Jesus, he fell at his feet and pleaded earnestly w/ him, “My daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so she will be healed and live.” So Jesus went w/ him.

We’re first introduced in this story to a man named Jairus. Jairus was a high ranking, and respected leader of the synagogue in Capernaum. He was likely steeped in O.T. traditions, well educated, and closely aligned w/ the Pharisees – who diligently sought to denigrate and destroy Jesus. It’s highly likely that on more than one occasion Jairus was caught up in trying to discredit, demean and even destroy Jesus. **This was the crowd he ran w/.**

*Which raises a tough question? **How do we respond to people who’ve made it their ambition to bring harm to us?***

I must confess I’ve unfortunately found myself in such a position – where someone has made it their ambition to denigrate and bring harm to me, my family, or the church where I served either b/c they’d been inadvertently hurt by something at the church, were in disagreement w/ me or the staff or b/c of some other issue like control or expectation. In either case, these people sought to bring harm – making it quite challenging to love such people.

A few years ago, we were faced w/ such a situation. At a former church, we lived next door to a family who attended the church we served. I'd often speak w/ the husband of some of my concerns/frustrations believing he was a friend and confidant. Sadly, when things turned sour, instead of standing w/ me and for me, he participated in throwing me under the bus and feeding me to the wolves. Needless to say, we felt greatly betrayed and were deeply wounded; and yet we still had to live next door to this family. Over time, we experienced even more hurt by things they said and did as disgruntled neighbors. Then one AM, a tragedy occurred. In the middle of the night, one of their children tragically passed away. We awoke that AM to great pain and shock as one to their other children was in their front yard sobbing and screaming 'He's dead! He's dead!' While the thought never crossed our minds, the reality of the moment was – will we, and how do we, care for people who made it their mission to bring us harm? We engaged. We went over and did whatever we could to help this hurting family. It didn't matter what had happened in the past, we were compelled by the love of God to love them in their time of need.

Why do I share this? B/c this is likely the situation Jesus found Himself. We don't know to what degree, but it's more than likely Jairus, either directly or indirectly, had tried to hurt Jesus; but in his time of need for his daughter, he had nowhere else to turn but to Jesus – and Jesus was there for him – b/c Jesus power overflows and transcends regret.

Jesus power always overflows to those who exhibit remorse and repentance.

And that's what we see here. Jairus went from a respected leader and likely antagonist of Jesus to a distraught/despairing father willing to sacrifice everything – his reputation, his status, his position – to save his daughter.

The language used expresses that *he begged incessantly* for Jesus to come to his house inferring that he was giving up all he had believed and lived for to seek His help.

How distraught. How helpless. He needy must a person be to sacrifice everything in the hope that Jesus might say “yes?” That'd be this destitute father. And much to his joy – Jesus agreed to go to his house. But there was a small problem – time was of the essence, and the crowd was so great and forceful no one was getting anywhere in a hurry.

II Jesus Power is OVERCOMING

A large crowd followed and pressed around him. And a woman was there who'd been subject to bleeding for 12 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, b/c 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. At once Jesus realized power had gone out from him. “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. Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling w/ 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."

As Jesus and Jairus wrestle their way through the crowd, we're introduced to the 2nd major character in our story – a woman in desperate need of the overcoming power of God.

And how the power of God can overcome. It can overcome disease, disappointment, disillusionment, discontent and even death. It can overcome any and every issue in life.

Consider this woman. She had suffered for 12 yrs. w/ a constant problem w/ her menstrual cycle. Such a problem had a tremendous impact upon her life. She didn't just suffer w/ a severe female issue – she suffered from loneliness, embarrassment, and shame.

She was an outcast. B/c of her issue, she was ostracized from the Temple and orphaned by society. Mosaic Law forbid her access to the synagogue as she could neither touch anyone nor be touched by anyone. So she couldn't work. She couldn't worship. She couldn't even walk down the street. She was considered unworthy. And to add insult to injury, she was flat broke b/c a group of quack doctors had been taking advantage of her and took all of her money.

Noticed what this woman does. Obviously, under a cloak to disguise her identity, she forces her way through the crowd in the hope of simply touching the hem of Jesus' garment. She risked everything! She risked her shame. She risked her pain. She risked being punished. She risked being exposed. She risked it all – **and her all was rewarded w/ His power.**

If no one ever took risks, Michelangelo would've painted the Sistine floor. *Neil Simon*

What are you willing to risk to experience the power of God in your life?

Her risk was met w/ His healing power. It was met w/ His rescue and restoration. It was met w/ His grace. **Can you imagine having a faith that stops Jesus in His tracks?**

Notice – Jesus didn't allow this woman to slip into oblivion. He didn't allow her to slip into the shadows – she tried; but he didn't allow it. Why? For the same reason He will not allow any of us who've to slip into the shadows – **b/c He has far more for us than just our earthly healing.**

If Jesus would've let her slip away – she would've missed

- Worshipping God
- Her Publicly Restored Her Dignity and Value
- His Publicly Declared Her Salvation (*sozo*)
- Her Calling to Follow Him (*daughter*)

III Jesus Power is OVERWELMING

While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. “Your daughter is dead,” they said. “Why bother the teacher anymore?” Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, “Don’t be afraid; just believe.” He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, w/ people crying and wailing loudly. He went in and said to them, “Why all this commotion and wailing? The child isn’t dead but asleep.” But they laughed at him. After he put them all out, he took the child’s father and mother and the disciples who were w/ him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, “Talitha koum!” (Girl, I say to you, get up!). Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around. At this they were completely astonished. He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this and told them to give her something to eat.

I can only imagine what was going through Jairus’ mind as he waited impatiently for Jesus to tend to this who interrupted his plans. And it got worse before it got better.

As Jesus finishes w/ this woman, Jairus receives notice by messenger that his precious daughter has died. Amazingly, according to the account of this incident in **Matthew 9**, Jairus didn’t freak out or get mad at Jesus. Instead he believed that if necessary, Jesus could raise his daughter from the dead.

While he was saying this, a synagogue leader came and knelt before him and said, “My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live.” Mt. 9:18

Let explain the scene as Jesus arrives at the house. In the 1st century, once a person had passed, controlled chaos ensued. Along w/ the grief of family/friends, professional mourners would arrive and begin screaming, wailing, and renting their clothes. So when Jesus arrives, his declaration that she was not dead but just asleep put a severe damper on the festivities.

So Jesus walks into the room where the girl was lying in state – He takes her by the hand and says, “Arise!” And immediately her spirit returns and she gets up. And in that instant, **Jesus overwhelms everyone w/ His authority and power over death by giving life to this little girl.**

God, I know that only those who suffer greatly reach out to grasp You – people who have nothing to offer but the faith that you can make them whole. I confess, Lord, how often I have followed in the crowd pressed around you. Yet how few times have those brushes w/ you changed my life? I have touched you, but only in the rush hour of religious activity. Sunday after Sunday I take my part in the crowd as I sit through the service. I sing the hymns and hear the sermon.

I read my Bible, say my prayers, give my money. How could I be so close your presence yet so far from your power? Could it be my arms are folded? Could it be my hands are full? I pray that if my arms are complacent, you would unfold them in outstretched longing for you. And if my hands are full, I pray you would empty them so I might cling only to you. *Intimate Moments w/ the Savior* – Gire