

## Weekly Bible Study for Highcliffe and Bransgore Methodist Churches

Bible Month #2 "Mission" by Jean Davies for 13th June 2021

***"I have come that they may have life and that they may have it more abundantly."*** (John 10:10).

Our study in Mark 5:21-43 bears out this "mission statement" expressed by Jesus Himself. It is His mission of restoration, both physical and spiritual, that we see worked out in the lives of a woman and of a young girl and her parents. Pray beforehand and read Mark 5:21-43.

The girl's father, a synagogue ruler named Jairus, sought Jesus, found Him and fell at His feet, begging Him to come and lay hands on his dying daughter, just 12 years of age, "that she will live" (v23). The Lord of Life responds immediately, accompanied by a thronging multitude who follow Him and Jairus on the way.

### **Q1 What do you seek from Jesus for your family?**

On the way, a "certain woman" also sought Jesus. She was considered "unclean, impure" under OT religious law because of her condition, a bleeding disorder from which she had suffered for 12 years. She was, however, a woman of great faith (v25-vs29). Note her thoughts of "If I just ..." (v28). No fanfare, no making way for her, no face-to-face meeting – she "came up behind Him". But, at her reaching out to Him, her faith and His power connected in a life-changing and life-giving way for her.

### **Q2 How and when did you first encounter Jesus; or are you still to reach out in faith?**

#### **Read 2 Chronicles 16:9. How would you connect this verse with Mark 5:32?**

The woman falls at Jesus' feet and pours out her pain, telling Him the "whole truth". His dealing with her is personal and appropriate, and loving. The Law would condemn her, but He commends her faith, and sends her on her way restored and at peace.

### **Q3 What truth do you need to confess to Jesus, and to then receive His peace? Read John 3:17 as you think about this question.**

In this fast-moving passage of Scripture, some of Jairus' household now come with the dreaded news that his daughter has died. Now more than ever, Jairus needed to hear Jesus' words "Do not be afraid, only believe" (v36). At Jairus' house, Jesus speaks with authority, quickly dismissing and ejecting those who "laughed at him" when He pronounces the girl as "not dead but asleep". Faith and disbelief cannot remain on equal terms under the same roof! Again, He deals personally and appropriately with the little girl, with her parents and three disciples as witnesses. V41 says it all!

And, how practical He was also telling them to give her something to eat. He deals with the whole person when He enters a person's life. As at the wedding feast at Cana, Jesus' "time had not yet come" (John 2:4), and He strictly commands the amazed parents and disciples not to tell about this miracle.

In Jesus, the rituals that denoted impurity were unravelled as He allowed Himself to be approached and touched by an "unclean" woman, and by His taking the hand of one pronounced "dead". Faith triumphed over ritual regarding what and who was pure in God's sight.

### **Q4 We can be guilty in God's sight of looking down upon "certain people"? What is your reason? Who are they and how can our thinking be changed?**

The woman was ritually "dead to the world" and the little girl literally "dead to the world." But both received restoration and a "new life in Christ" (Romans 6:1-4) pointing towards His great work of spiritual and eternal restoration on the cross which is open to all.