

Gospel of Mark 10 – Chapter 5, verses 21 – 43 :- A healing and a miracle!

Looking back, remember how the man who was freed from demon possession was instructed by the Lord Jesus to “Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.” chapter 5, verse 19.

In this week’s study the Lord Jesus Christ has returned to the western shore of the Sea of Galilee and is back among his own people – see Matthew chapter 9, verse 1. (Remember also John 1, verse 11!). In this study we find that the Lord restricts the witnesses of the raising of the daughter of Jairus to his closest disciples (verse 37) and afterwards “he strictly charged them that no one should know” (verse 43). In ‘his own country’ the Lord Jesus seems to have been reticent about his status as the Messiah until shortly before his passion – Mark chapter 8, verses 29 – 30; chapter 9, verses 9 – 10 and verse 30. Compare with the Gospel of John chapter 2, verse 4 and chapter 12, verses 23 and 27.

Verses 21 – 24 – Jairus approaches the Lord Jesus Christ:- Jairus is described as “one of the rulers of the synagogue”. The Lord Jesus is referred to as teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum and as such would be well known to Jairus. This well known local leader comes to the Lord Jesus Christ, pleading with him to come and heal his “little daughter” who was at the point of death. (Matthew’s Gospel chapter 9, verse 18 states that she had just died). Jairus was desperate enough to humble himself and fall on his knees to plead with the Lord Jesus. Verse 23 reads as a statement of faith!

Verses 25 – 34 – The woman with a haemorrhage:- In Jewish Law the woman would be regarded as ‘unclean’ and anyone who touched her would become unclean: (think of the ‘keep 6 feet apart’ rule during the Covid outbreak!). She should not have been in the crowd where there was pushing and shoving by those trying to get near to the Lord Jesus. Not only that but she had the courage to deliberately break the Law and sneak up and touch the Lord’s robe. She was desperate to be healed.

Her healing was ‘immediate’ verse 29 and she knew that she was cured. At the same moment the Lord Jesus knew that “power had gone out from him”. It was “power” that was operative in the healing. (Power in Greek = “dynamis” -from which we get ‘dynamo’ and ‘dynamite’!). Note that the crowd pressing round the Lord Jesus had not come into contact with him in the same way! The woman had come in faith to touch his clothes, now she comes trembling and afraid at being found out! But – she comes! That is what matters! Her faith, as shown in her coming to the Lord opens up the channel of her healing. The words “Go in peace and be freed from your suffering” is the seal which sent her away healed and restored to life in the community.

Verses 35 – 43 – The daughter of Jairus:- It does not matter which of the Gospel readings we follow at this point. The little girl died before the Lord Jesus arrived. For another example of the Lord using the thought of ‘sleep’ instead of ‘death’, read the Gospel of John, chapter 11, verses 11 – 15 and from the Apostle Paul, see 1 Thessalonians, chapter 4, verses 13 – 18. A word of encouragement to the bereaved father is given in verse 36. I wonder how the Lord Jesus managed to leave the crowd behind as he went to the house? (verse 37). As on other occasions he limited his attendants to those in his inner circle – Peter, James and John: compare Mark chapter 5, verse 37 with chapter 9, verse 2, and chapter 14, verse 33. By the time he arrived at the house the professional mourners were in full swing! In their unbelief they were immediately excluded from the house (verses 39 – 40). As someone has said ‘the Lord broke up every funeral he attended, including his own!’. I have always been impressed by the way that the Lord Jesus Christ dealt with this child! Taking her hand and a few quiet words brings her restoration and healing. No shouted commands, just gentleness! And he told them to give her something to eat! Not just healing but ongoing care for her physical body.

Peace, perfect peace,
in this dark world of sin?
The blood of Jesus whispers
peace within.

Peace, perfect peace,
death shadowing us and ours?
Jesus has vanquished death
And all its powers.

Peace, perfect peace,
With sorrows surging round?
On Jesus’ bosom naught but
Calm is found.

Peace perfect peace,
our future all unknown?
Jesus we know and
He is on the throne!

Edward H. Bickersteth 1875