

Across barriers

Mark 5.21-43

We meet an important man from the synagogue, Jairus. He comes to Jesus and asks him to heal his daughter who is seriously ill. On the way to Jairus' house, a woman, suffering from bleeding, touches Jesus in the crowd. Jesus knows he was touched and knows the woman is healed. When they arrive at Jairus' house, his daughter has died. However, Jesus makes her live again.

Now read **Mark 5.21-43** see p.2 for text.

A note on the passage

Jesus not only heals a sick woman but brings a young girl back from the dead. Despite being jostled by a busy crowd, Jesus is aware of the woman seeking healing and responds accordingly. He shows no concern for the Jewish purity laws and touches the dead child. He reaches beyond the boundaries of society to offer healing. The woman, in true faith, also reaches out of the crowd to ask for his healing.

Write

Write a version of this Bible passage from the point of view of Jairus. What did he do? What did he feel? What did he see? What did he hear? Have you felt, done, seen or heard any of the things that Jairus experienced?

Ask for Help

Sometimes, asking for help can be a really difficult thing to do. It means that we know we are vulnerable and in need of someone else. We also need to trust the person we are asking. Think of something you struggle with and would like to improve, e.g. learning a language, riding a bike, using your computer. Find someone you can ask to assist you with this – a family member or close friend – and ask them for help. Reflect on how that makes you feel and what happens afterwards. How does being helped make a difference to you?

Act of Kindness

Think of someone you know with a long-term health condition. Think about them. Pray for them. Decide on an act of kindness you can do for them which would help them, e.g. clean their car, mow their lawn, do some shopping for them.



Ask yourself: Where do we see people needing help and healing in our world today? What are the barriers in place which may be preventing them from receiving what they need?

CARTOON

Every day this week, make a cartoon picture of one part of the story:

- Day 1 Jairus comes to Jesus
- Day 2 Jesus in the crowd
- Day 3 Jesus talks to the woman
- Day 4 Jesus and Jairus are told of his daughter's death
- Day 5 Jesus and Jairus arrive at Jairus' house
- Day 6 The girl's room
- Day 7 The healing of Jairus' daughter.

Think about the characters, what they are feeling and what barriers are being crossed in different ways by different people.

Pray

Identify the prayer concerns in the passage, i.e. Jairus was worried about his daughter, the woman had health issues. Make a list of the things people were thinking and feeling, and add the names of any individuals you know who fit into that category. Pray through your list, asking God to bring comfort and healing.

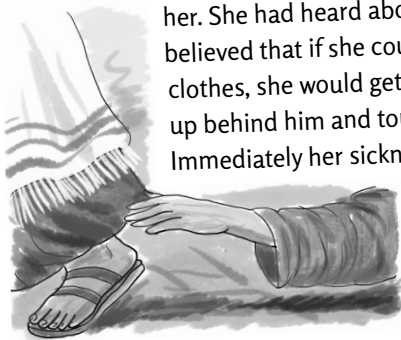
Choose a version of the passage to read. The first is the ROOTS version for children, the second is the NRSV text which may be suitable for older children, young people and adults.

As he got out of the boat, a large crowd gathered around Jesus. Jairus, a leader in the synagogue, was there and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet and begged him, 'My daughter is about to die. Please come and lay your hands on her so that she will live.' So Jesus went with him and the crowd followed.

Among them was a woman who lived alone and had no friends. She had been very ill for many years and had spent all her money on doctors. But she had

got worse and no one would go near her. She had heard about Jesus and believed that if she could just touch his clothes, she would get well. She came up behind him and touched his cloak. Immediately her sickness stopped,

and she knew that she was healed.



Jesus realised instantly that some power had left him, so he turned and asked the crowd, 'Who touched my clothes?' The disciples said, 'How can you ask that? There are hundreds of people here, all jostling you!' Jesus looked around him, and the frightened woman fell at his feet and told him the truth. 'Daughter,' he said to her, 'your faith has made you well. Go in peace and be healed of your illness.'

Suddenly news came that the young girl had died. Jesus said to Jairus, 'Don't be afraid. Keep believing.' Jesus went to his house and found many people weeping and wailing. 'Why are you crying?' he asked them. 'The child isn't dead. She is sleeping.' They laughed at him.

So he sent them outside and went in to see the little girl. Jesus took her hand and said, 'Little girl! Get up!' The 12-year-old girl immediately got up and began to walk about. Everyone was amazed, but Jesus urged them not to tell anyone.

Mark 5.21-43

Did you know?

- A synagogue is a Jewish place of worship.
- By calling her 'daughter', Jesus does not just heal her physically but also gives her a place within society.

Mark 5.21-43 (NRSV)

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet and begged him repeatedly, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live." So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, "If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well." Immediately her haemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my clothes?" And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, 'Who touched me?'" He looked all around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down

before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?" But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe." He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. When he had entered, he said to them, "Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha cum," which means, "Little girl, get up!" And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.