

## **People Jesus Touched: A Synagogue Ruler, a Dead Girl, and a Sick Woman (Mark 5)**

By Bob Young

This sermon is a continuation of the series.

Review the nature of Mark—themes in Mark.

The outline is natural—three connected scenarios, three people if you will.

### **A Jewish synagogue ruler**

Jairus, a Jewish layman. Synagogue administrator. Building maintenance, supervisory, good deacon, line up worship leaders. Some synagogue rulers had the honorary title. Most synagogues had only one ruler.

Why did he come there? Do not know for sure.

Indication that he encounter with Jesus was accidental?

Nonetheless, he had heard of Jesus, he saw him, apparently recognized him, thought he could help. Why did he think he could help?

A request. Become personally involved, come lay hands on her, touch, she can be healed and live. Other of the gospel writers record the interaction between Jesus and the ruler, but here the text only says that Jesus went.

### **A sick woman**

He went with a large crowd, was likely moving along through the crowd which was both behind and in front of him. The synagogue ruler is likely hurrying things along.

But it takes time. We meet another person Jesus touched. A woman. That gives her one strike against her. She probably doesn't have a husband. She may have been kicked out of her father's house. Sin and disease were associated. We don't know how old she was—I don't think she was very old. She has had a problem with bleeding for 12 years. She is unclean. She has been taken advantage of. She has spent her money. She is worse off for the help. She has suffered—a theme in Mark's gospel.

She is behind Jesus, inching forward, closer and closer as they move along, and touches him, because she thinks he can help her, heal her.

And it worked. She is freed.

But Jesus knows. Who touched me?

Incredible question. How is it possible to know. Everyone is touching you. Look at the crowds. But the woman is revealed—she tells, perhaps she can't keep it to herself, perhaps she already knows that he will find out, she is fearful, but she is healed.

### **A dead girl**

Now the news comes, the daughter of the synagogue ruler has died. Don't bother.

But the ruler, who has been watching all of this, is traveling along with Jesus, and Jesus speaks to him.

When they come to the house, Jesus sees the crowd, the funeral wailing/weeping has begun.

Why? They laugh at him.

But he takes the father, and the mother, and the inner circle of three, and he goes in to where the child was. He tells her to get up. And again, it works.

She was 12, she was the same age as the number of years the woman had had the bleeding problem.

We have another amazing, astonishing story.

How will the news be kept secret? Won't she go to school? Won't she go into the community with her parents?

## **Conclusion**

*What do you see?*

*\*1 To make a difference in the life of another required a personal touch. It is not enough to put together programs and events, activities and opportunities. People are not seeking a friendly church, they are seeking a friend.*

*Someone must see and connect and establish meaningful relationship. The personal touch is the only way we can communicate that we care. People do not care how much you know until they know how much you care. How much do you care?*

*What if we did benevolence with a personal touch? How might it work?.....*

*What if we did outreach with a personal touch? Can you imagine?....*

*What if shepherding were with a personal touch? What would that look like?.....*

*What if fellowship were personal? How would it be different?.....*

*What if we lived our lives in this community with a personal touch?*

*The only way is through a personal touch.*

*\*2 A personal touch will not be without cost. Power had gone out from Jesus. Something will leave us, we will have to share something of ourselves. We will have to forget self, deny self, give self.*

*It will be costly to follow Jesus. It will cost everything—prestige, personal desires, personal gain, personal goals, perhaps even family, friends.... There is no way to tell what will happen when we decide to follow Jesus, but what we can know is that it won't matter, because he will be with us. If only I can touch him. If only I can get close to him. I can escape this wretched world, I can find newness and hope and comfort and peace.*

*And when it happens, who would not fall at his feet trembling.*

*I have been sharing about how we live our lives as we seek to take Jesus to others and to our world, but these principles are first about how much of Jesus we are allowing into our own lives.*

*Do you experience daily his personal touch, personal presence, personal power, his purpose and love, his grace and mercy, talking and walking, sharing, dreaming.*

*Do you know how much it cost him so that you might have that possibility?*

*Will you bow before him, obey him, commit to him anew, find freshness for the journey, seek faithfulness simply because of who Jesus is.*