



# THE HOUSE OF A DESPERATE FATHER

Mark 5:21–43

*<sup>21</sup>Now when Jesus had crossed over again by boat to the other side, a great multitude gathered to Him; and He was by the sea. <sup>22</sup>And behold, one of the rulers of the synagogue came, Jairus by name. And when he saw Him, he fell at His feet <sup>23</sup>and begged Him earnestly, saying, “My little daughter lies at the point of death. Come and lay Your hands on her, that she may be healed, and she will live.” <sup>24</sup>So Jesus went with him, and a great multitude followed Him and thronged Him. <sup>25</sup>Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years, <sup>26</sup>and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse. <sup>27</sup>When she heard about Jesus, she came behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment. <sup>28</sup>For she said, “If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well.” <sup>29</sup>Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction. <sup>30</sup>And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, “Who touched My clothes?” <sup>31</sup>But His disciples said to Him, “You see the multitude thronging You, and You say, ‘Who touched Me?’ ” <sup>32</sup>And He looked around to see her who had done this thing. <sup>33</sup>But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. <sup>34</sup>And He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction.” <sup>35</sup>While He was still speaking, some came from the ruler of the synagogue’s house who said, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?” <sup>36</sup>As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, “Do not be afraid; only believe.” <sup>37</sup>And He permitted no one to follow Him except Peter, James, and John the brother of James. <sup>38</sup>Then He came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and saw a tumult and those who wept and wailed loudly. <sup>39</sup>When He came in, He said to*

*them, “Why make this commotion and weep? The child is not dead, but sleeping.”<sup>40</sup> And they ridiculed Him. But when He had put them all outside, He took the father and the mother of the child, and those who were with Him, and entered where the child was lying.<sup>41</sup> Then He took the child by the hand, and said to her, “Talitha, cumi,” which is translated, “Little girl, I say to you, arise.”<sup>42</sup> Immediately the girl arose and walked, for she was twelve years of age. And they were overcome with great amazement.<sup>43</sup> But He commanded them strictly that no one should know it, and said that something should be given her to eat.*

—Mark 5:21–43

### **Read Mark 5:21–43**

How desperate are you to have Jesus in your house? Are you willing to suffer the loss of your career? Your standing in society? Your peers? Many are not desperate enough. They still want to feel in control of the circumstances in their lives. Either they don't want the social stigma of Jesus in the house, or they have failed to realize the great blessing of having Jesus in their house.

In our story this week, we read about a desperate father who jeopardized his career and social status in order to have Jesus in his house. This father rightly recognized that his only hope was if Jesus would come into his house and minister to his dying daughter. Of note is the fact that Jesus did not refuse this desperate father. In fact, Jesus not only agreed to go to his house, but He also accompanied him home and gave the father the promise of life for his little girl.

In this day and age of busyness and pressure, we need to make it a priority, even a matter of desperation, to ensure that Jesus is in our house. Life is hard. We need Jesus more than we realize. Even more than this, Jesus is the only hope of life for our loved ones.

As you look at Jairus this week, may you place all your hope and expectation in the promise and presence of Jesus in your house.

1. Use Mark 5:22–23 to remark on the following about Jairus:
  - a. Who he was
  - b. What he did when he saw Jesus
  - c. His situation
  - d. What he asked Jesus to do
2. Observe and comment on how Jesus responded to this desperate Father. Mark 5:24
3. From Mark 5:25–34, explain the situation that delayed Jesus.
  - a. How do you think Jairus might have felt about this delay?

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

*The layman who were rulers of the synagogue presided over the affairs of the synagogue, including organizing and teaching in synagogue services. Most of them were Pharisees.<sup>12</sup>*

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

*The intertwined miracles involving Jairus' daughter and the bleeding woman occur in all three Synoptic Gospels (cp. Mt. 9:18–26; Luke 8:40–56). Both miracles involved uncleanness.<sup>13</sup>*

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

The phrase, “just believe” is in the imperative, and could be better translated “keep believing!”

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

*The commotion and weeping and wailing confirmed the report of the messengers and dramatized the hopelessness of the situation. Such outbursts of grief were typical of funerals in Jesus’ days, where professional mourners were often hired.<sup>14</sup>*

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

*Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.”*

—John 11:25

*God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did.*

—Romans 4:17

4. Use Mark 5:35–36 to answer the following questions:
  - a. What devastating news met Jairus while Jesus was still *speaking* with the woman?
  - b. What advice did the messenger give to Jairus?
  - c. What directives did Jesus give Jairus?
5. Comment on what happened in Jairus’ house by sharing your thoughts from the following verses:
  - a. Verse 37
  - b. Verse 38
  - c. Verse 39
  - d. Verse 40
6. According to Mark 5:41–43:
  - a. What happened when Jesus took the girl’s hand and spoke to her?

- b. What was the reaction of her parents?
  - c. What did Jesus instruct the parents *not* to do?
  - d. What did Jesus charge the parents to do?
7. Comment on the importance of the following phrases in this account:
- a. *Twelve years*
  - b. *Do not be afraid*
  - c. *Only believe*
  - d. *Talitha Cumi*
8. What is your greatest takeaway from Jesus in the desperate father's house?

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Some translators believe that the Aramaic phrase, *Talitha Cumi* is actually an endearing term, "Little lamb, arise."

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

*Before long, Jesus would bleed for this woman and die for this girl. But in this moment, he just makes them well.<sup>15</sup>*