

## A Savior for Desperate People

### Mark 5:21-43

In the last part of what we refer to as chapter five, Mark continues painting a picture of Jesus—the Suffering Servant Savior. This portrait is 100% historical and 100% relevant to three periods of time: the time being recorded, the time at which Mark wrote and gave the gospel to Rome, and the time of any reader from then until forever.

In Mark's portrait of Jesus he then accomplishes two tasks: he demonstrates the awe and wonder of the Son of God and he demonstrates just how completely the Son of God fulfills every need one can imagine. In particular, with the presentation of this section, Mark helps his readers see that Jesus is the perfect Savior for desperate people living in desperate circumstances.



To a people who knew nothing but misery at the hands of government and society, Mark brought to light two healing miracles that demonstrated just what the Roman Church and its listeners needed to hear:

*This Savior we proclaim to you, this Jesus, son of a carpenter and Son of God, this Messiah will not turn his back on you. This Savior will rush into your desperate circumstances to rescue you and those you love.*

Now, 2000 years later, we can learn what the Roman people learned. And as we learn what they learned, we can ponder just how we can be ready in season and out to carry this message to the out-stretched hand of desperate people in desperate circumstances.

### Read Mark 5:21-43

However, before we tackle the text, let's ask a few questions...

1. Do we really live in an era in which our particular society is filled with people who are truly desperate like those in our current text?

2. If there really are desperate people, who are they, where are they, how do we reach them?

3. If people are blind to their greatest need of all—salvation—and are not drawn through other forms of desperation, how would you propose we reach out to them?

### Back to the text, Mark 5:21-43

#### 1. When people are desperate they need a Savior who will respond immediately.

Look in the text for clues that indicate both Jairus and the woman were desperate.

Question: Can you list your observations?

Also, notice How Jesus wasted no time in his interaction with them.

Question: How is this like your own situations?



Question: What does this level of desperation look like today?

Question: When we see it in others, what should we be prepared to do? What holds us back?

Question: What situations like these can you currently celebrate because you were able to point someone to the Savior?

Question: What roadblocks prevent you from running to the arms of the Savior when you feel desperate?

**2. When people are desperate they are willing to consider life-altering change.**

Jairus vs. 22, 23  
Woman vss. 26-28

Question: Considering what we know about our Lord’s interaction with Jewish leaders, what way of life was Jairus tossing to the wind? How about the bleeding woman?

Question: What are some things in our contemporary culture that prevent people from questioning their way of life?

Question: How do you suppose you could help someone overcome their false worldview?

**3. When people are desperate they no longer dwell on their own self-worth.**

Consider the differences between Jairus and the Woman:

Jairus	Woman
male	female
honored/vs. 22	unclean/vs. 25
12 years of joy/vs. 42	12 years of agony/vs. 25
wealthy/vss. 22, 35	poor/vs. 26
named/vs. 22	anonymous

It did not matter to either of them what they had believed in the past, where they had come from, what they had done or had not done, it only mattered that they get help. Their desperation forced them to look past themselves, and past that which they had always relied on.

Question: How might you use this knowledge in a potential evangelism situation? What kind of questions might you ask someone to help him open up to the idea that when it comes to the really important stuff who we are, who we know, what we do, what we own, where we live, and where we go really does not matter?

- People invest time and energy into developing their career, their bodies and relationships, but often neglect the spiritual dimension of their lives. How do you actively pursue spiritual growth?
- Do you think much about spiritual things? (This usually leads to conversation about what “spiritual” means—i.e. religion vs. relationship.)
- Do you find that faith and spiritual values play a role in your (work) (day) (marriage) (perspective on life)?
- We’ve been friends for quite some time now, and I’ve never really talked to you about the most important thing in my life. May I take a few moments and do so?
- What do you think about when you go to sleep at night (which gives you the opportunity to say what you think of at night...hopefully it is God...you know, praying)?
- Many people say that if there is no afterlife, then life is meaningless. What do you think ?
- What kind of needs do you see in the people around you? What is your deepest need?