

HALLELUJAH!

WHAT A SAVIOR

JESUS, OUR HEALER

Mark 5:21–43

RELATED SCRIPTURES

Numbers 19:11–13 | Leviticus 15:25–30 | Mark 2:15–17

STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 04.27.25

SUMMARY

In his gospel, Mark often utilizes a technique that scholars have named the “Markan sandwich.” Mark will begin a narrative, take what seems like a detour into another story, and then return and complete the first account. The interesting fact about the middle part—the detour—is that it’s not really a detour; it’s additional detail that reinforces the overarching point. As Mark begins this particular account, we read of a man named Jairus who pleads for his daughter’s life; she is at the point of death. As Jesus begins to go to Jairus’ daughter, our story is interrupted by another soul in distress—a woman who has suffered 12 years with a discharge of blood. What these two individuals have in common might seem apparent—they both desperately need a physician. However, both people, Jairus and the woman, are also very different. One is an outcast because of her condition, and the other is a respected member of society. How would Jesus meet their needs? Aside from their individual needs, there are still further complications. A woman with this sort of illness—as if being a social pariah wasn’t enough—by the law’s standards would be “unclean” and unfit to enter worship at the temple. Additionally, anyone who came into contact with her would also become unclean. Similarly, as the account continues, we learn that Jairus’ daughter dies before Jesus arrives. Like the woman with the discharge of blood, the little girl, who is dead, is now unclean, and anyone who comes into contact with a corpse would also be considered ceremonially unclean. So perhaps Jesus should just stay away? But this is what makes Jesus the Great Physician; not only does he provide healing in both instances, but he does what no other can do: he makes the unclean clean again. Jesus meets the moment’s need, but his actions also point us to what he will do for all who believe in him—make us well, clean, and give us new life. These two people of dissimilar backgrounds also point us to the fact that faith in the work of Christ is the instrumental cause of what saves us; it’s not what we bring but what he brings to us.

GROUP QUESTIONS

Share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you from the sermon or your direct reading of Mark 5:21–43.

There’s a common theme of desperation in these two accounts. Can you remember when you were desperate for the Lord’s intervention? What can this passage teach us about such situations?

Detail the characteristics you see in Jesus in this account. Which of those characteristics are you most in need of development? How do we do this?

If there’s one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today’s themes in what you bring before God.