

## PENTECOST 5 (2021)

### Mark 4

**Mark 5:21–43** When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered about him, and he was beside the sea. Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, and seeing him, he fell at his feet and implored him earnestly, saying, **“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.”** **And he went with him.**

And a great crowd followed him and thronged about him. And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. For she said, “If I touch even his garments, I will be made well.” And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone out from him, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, “Who touched my garments?” And his disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, ‘Who touched me?’” And he looked around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before him and told him the whole truth. And 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, there came from the ruler’s house some who said, **“Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?”** **But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, “Do not fear, only believe.”** And he allowed no one to follow him except Peter and James and John the brother of James. They came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and Jesus saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. And when he had entered, he said to them, “Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at him. But 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. Taking her by the hand he said to her, "Talitha cumi," which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise." And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement. And he strictly charged them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

In the Name of Jesus.

<sup>29</sup> And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, <sup>30</sup> save yourself, and come down from the cross!" <sup>31</sup> So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. <sup>32</sup> Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe."<sup>1</sup>

Normally, Jesus is all for this 'believing' stuff. But not at that price. Not at the cost of losing His death-grip on the cross.

There you go. To His last breath, Jesus, the King of the Jews, cherished that old rugged cross. Great was His faithfulness.

Good thing! For WE may mouth the words; even truly mean it for short spurts; Holy Spirit wonders. But Simon Peter stands for what all disciples are able to contribute to the Good News of Jesus Christ, Son of God, under just the SHADOW of that cherished cross:

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<sup>1</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (Mk 15:29–32). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

<sup>26</sup> And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. <sup>27</sup> And Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away, for it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’ <sup>28</sup> But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.” <sup>29</sup> Peter said to him, “Even though they all fall away, I will not.” <sup>30</sup> And Jesus said to him, “Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.” <sup>31</sup> But he said emphatically, “If I must die with you, I will not deny you.” And they all said the same. <sup>2</sup>

The original Greek goes like this: Blah, blah, blah. Us. But HIM:

‘Who touched me?’” And he looked around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before him and told him the whole truth. And he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”

“Little girl, I say to you, arise.” And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement. And he strictly charged them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

There you have it. Jesus allowed no gap to come between His Hands and the wood; though even He was ‘sorrowful unto death’ before that Friday dawned. And He ain’t leaving us behind!

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<sup>2</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (Mk 14:26–31). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it.”<sup>3</sup>

That poor woman suffered for twelve years. Allow me to be very literal in the translation of her treatment. ‘Having spent all that was FROM HER, she gained nothing, but ended up worser.’

The little girl made it to twelve. And the Son of God paused on the road while her life was cut short. Really?

Really. God in the flesh has no troubled dreams while one daughter suffers for a WHOLE twelve years and twelve years is ALL the other daughter gets. And they’re WOMEN, to boot! Not MEN! But IRREPLACEABLE!

Yes. The Lord is committed to save us, my dear ones. So much so, He kills us. ‘He who believes and is baptized shall be saved. He who does not believe will be condemned.’

Oh, while we’re HERE, He heals the old and sees that children get fed. It’s the devil who kills us to be nasty. When Jesus climbed up on the cross crying ‘Follow Me,’ He guaranteed to all His little girls that His Father in heaven will NEVER take into account what WE bring to Him, when He decides what’s best for us.

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<sup>3</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (Mk 8:34–35). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

So we believe and follow through on love when and where the Spirit brings life. Today we baptize another little one. The Word later teaches that one of the things this watery-Word does is drown the grown-up in us all, the pretender. So that the rotten little self-absorbed creature we truly are deep down can give SOMETHING to Jesus!

Rise each day, daily and much, my dear ones, BURSTING with joy at YOUR Baptism and believing that Jesus has worked the miracle with you! Boast: ‘Here I stand! At least ONE out of the billions of us needs a Savior who dies so I may die in peace. Today I live because my King will take every insult I hurl at Him. And since HE will never stop THAT, never stop ‘taking it’ from me, I need never stop living. I!’

Your Savior lets you think time is dragging when you suffer. Your Savior lets you think that good times never last long enough. Why? His mockers were inspired! ‘Just let go of the cross, Jesus! And you can eke out a few more days with US, in all our glory!’

He would not save Himself. Not for THIS. ALL He is about now is saving you and me, from all of THIS, no matter how much we rely on THIS, rather than on Him.

Savior, when your love shall call us  
From our struggling pilgrim way,  
Let not fear of death appall us,  
Glad your summons to obey.

Talitha cumi! Little girl, arise! In the Name of Jesus.