

PENTECOST 6 (2018)

Mark 5

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.

The Son of God has HIS ‘to-do’ list and we have ours. Praise the Lord! Sometimes they line up! But the Spirit of Jesus never has and never WILL guide Him according to OUR advice and consent! (HEAVEN IS OPEN TO ALL!)

LONG Gospel lesson—happy little Gospel!
FREEDOM!

To reach out and touch the Crucified and Risen Jesus; to pray to Him even when WE determine things are terminal and hopeless—though our Father above is quite anxiety-free! In the midst of a world that cannot cure what ails us truly, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit—the Unthinkable God!—has nothing better to do than to hear your prayer; mine too. Unless it is to answer what WE call DISASTER with true healing, true awakening: HIS ‘to-do’ list!

It all boils down to the righteousness of God! HE is what HE MADE US to be—He IS what WE AIN’T! And so, the poor bleeding woman spends all her money on blood-suckers. And when poor Jairus—blessed Jairus!—finally concludes his daughter is TERMINAL—like the rest of children of Adam, this synagogue official—at least THIS ONE, the text says—figures that after everything else has failed, he may as well check with this man who can really draw a crowd! His agenda—Christ’s agenda—and yet, the two meet!

When WILL we ever learn, my dear fellow disciples! (What a faithless question! AS IF the REAL GOD plans on DEMOTING you and me from being little ones,

disciples, sin-ridden and dead—DEMOTE you and me to HIS ROLE: Teacher and Healer and Life and God's Word! Just keep on learning, this Gospel says—learn as Doctor Luther wrote as a REAL sinner, not a fictitious one—for we have real GRACE, God's unmerited attachment to us, all the way to the flesh of the Man Who bled to stop the woman's flow of blood, Who died to appropriate (WHAT WORD AM I LOOKING FOR!) to Himself the grave, so the little girl was not allowed there anymore; nor WE!

And so we can align no more happily with HIS to-do list than to rejoice in our Baptism morning, noon and night: HIS...CLAIM...ON...US!

Oh, the world's showy-wailing quickly turned to jeers when He spoke what's what: she is not dead, just sleeping! On the Last Day, He will drive out all those jeerers too, my dear ones! And He will for good finish up what He began in you and me in our Baptism.

HE says, by our Baptism: She is not sinful, but clean! (Can you hear the world's laughter? Satan's forced cackling—because the devil ain't sceered 'a nuttin more than people like you and me smiling at our Baptism! The crowd out there, also, has no eye, no ear, no heart for that woman, or for you, or me, with our admission of our anemic state. WHERE is our attachment to God?! WHERE is our grace-type attachment to our fellows in

need? WHY must there always be an angle, an advantage, a calculation?!))

Righteous heaven is not angry with you and me because we bleed and die, my friends. Righteous heaven is angry with us because we are not righteous! And so, we receive good from the Lord, which we cannot deserve; AND, we receive evil from Him—and faith sees behind a frowning face, a smiling Providence!

Oh, how the Risen Jesus must have smiled at those poor women when He rose.

Where...was...He? Around the corner? Behind a tree? Invisibility trick? Wherever—He smiled at this!

⁵ And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. ⁶ And he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. ⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.” ⁸ And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

I'm sure y'all are way ahead of me here! We've been set up by this LONG Gospel lesson today! Maybe that's why it's so long, to make us pay close attention!

All the words are there, here, Mark 5 and Mark 16: fear, trembling, astonishment! All that will shut the mouths of the women told to tell—what fell on that poor woman, who then told; and those few who saw Him raise Jairus' daughter—'Talitha; koumi!' And He strictly charged them to tell no one. And so, of course, the whole world knows!

1 Come, my soul, with ev'ry care,
 Jesus loves to answer prayer;
 He Himself has bid thee pray,
 Therefore will not turn away.

2 Thou art coming to a King,
 Large petitions with thee bring;
 For His grace and pow'r are such
 None can ever ask too much.

BECAUSE YOU HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED AT HIS WORD, HIS AGENDA, HIS TO-DO LIST—you and I—we're free to claim God and His ear and His heart, despite all our own agendas that keep messing things up; and be certain that Heaven will hear from our unrighteous lips a

prayer that is all-right with the Holy Trinity! Why?
 Because HE says we're right with Him—NOT because we
 conclude anything about it at all!

Love works much the same way! LOVE, my dear
 ones! Attach yourself to others—those who advantage you
 AND those who set you always at a disadvantage!

From OUR SIDE, OUR ATTACHMENT will involve
 all sorts of disappointments and grumblings and shoulder
 shrugging and eyes rolling, when we try to live out what
 the Word says is ours: the righteousness of God! (WE
 have so much better ideas than God, don't we?!)

Yet heaven will not, CANNOT see past His own
 pledge, made to us when we were baptized! Heaven even
 overlooks our desperate desire to save ourselves
 IN...OUR...OWN...ESTIMATION!---He did not die, rise,
 ascend and Send His Spirit, His Father's Promise, for
 nothing. He truly is going to save us: from what we are
 SURE is our big problem—AND, from what IS REALLY
 our PROBLEM: Him!

REMEMBER! Y'all are supposed to raise a flag or
 use an airhorn if I get too far into the weeds. Two
 examples:

One of the greatest in the kingdom of heaven said to grandpa, two weeks ago at the communion rail, as pastor walked by serving Christ's Body and Blood for the forgiveness of your sins: 'But grandpa, I wanna KEEP my sins!'

Was there ever a more Lutheran confession?!

These great ones are commanded not to cast their pearls before swine. But every now and again, they let out slip their grasp before their pastor.

So I took up informing the Blessed Holy Trinity that the conquering and mastering of my sins was NO LONGER MY PROBLEM! If HE does not cast them out and master them, my little efforts will just turn me into homo religiosus, man-made religions man: paranoid, or an unbearable religious jerk!

But if bleeding and dying and sinning are now BENEATH my station, then all will be well!

LEMME repeat!

YOUR God, the Living One, by Whose authority you

have been baptized and healed and raised from sin from death and from the power of the devil—ACTUAL God will never wait on you and me to figure out what He's going to do with you and me! Instead, He's already ahead of our anxieties, has borne our anxieties—

And the One Task remaining to the Lord Jesus, is to remove the crowds and voices and wailing and ridiculing once and for all; and thus, remove our anxiety. In other words:

I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come in the Name of Jesus! Amen.