

The Gospel of Mark: Peter's Story of Jesus by Steve Petty

**Bible Interpretation and study**

**Mark 5: 21-43**

We crossed the sea again and when we reached the other side a huge crowd gathered around us immediately, before we even touched the shore. One of the leaders of the local synagogue, a man named Jairus, pushed to the front, knelt at his feet and begged him over and over to heal his daughter. He said to Jesus, "My little girl is so sick, she is nearly dead, please – please, come and touch her so she may get well and live." So, Jesus followed him to his house.

As we walked, the crowd came along, pressing in on us from all sides. In the crowd there was a woman who had been bleeding for twelve years. Many doctors had tried to cure her, usually giving her more pain and suffering, while she continued to get weaker and weaker. She had heard about Jesus, and she snuck up behind us in the crowd, so that, at one point, she reached out and touched his robe. She was thinking, "If I can just touch his robe, I might become well." When she touched him, the bleeding stopped immediately, and she felt stronger, like she had been healed. Jesus felt a flow of energy go out of him and stopped dead in his tracks and turned to face us. "Who touched me?" he demanded. I said to him, "Jesus, look at this crowd, everyone is jostling and pushing, and you want to know "Who touched me?" He just stood his ground and looked at the crowd, which was now quieting and a bit wary. As he was looking into everyone's face to see who it was, the woman became afraid that she would be found out, so she came forward and threw herself at his feet sobbing and blurting out her whole story. Jesus said to her, "My child, it is your faith in me that has healed you. You can go home now and live a long and blessed life. You are free of this illness."

While the crowd was still buzzing about this, some people came from Jairus' house and told Jairus, "Your daughter is dead. There is no need to bother Jesus anymore." Jesus heard what they were saying and, turning to Jairus, he said, "Don't worry. Keep the faith. Everything will be alright." So, Jesus told me to follow him and bring James and John. When we got to Jairus' house, they were already wailing and weeping in grief. Jesus entered the house and said to them, "What is up with you people? This girl is not dead, she is just sleeping." But they laughed at him in scorn. Jesus turned to us and said, "Get them out of here!" Then he took Jairus and his wife, and we all went into the little girl's room. He took her by the hand and, looking at her, he said, "Hey, Pun'kin! Wake up!" She jumped right up and hugged him and started to run around the room full of energy, because she was just twelve. Her parents were delirious with joy, but Jesus told them to keep it a secret for a while, and to just bring her some food in the meantime.

**"The Personal Touch"**

Jesus is usually pretty calm. We have this image of Jesus as "Gentle Jesus, meek and mild." But in the past couple of weeks, we have seen Jesus bark at people.

Jesus yells at Andrew on the boat – "Be Quiet!", because he had been yammering off in fear of the storm.

Today he turns in anger, as he feels his power go out when the woman touches the hem of his garment. He demands to be told who has touched him. Usually this element gets played down, but the Greek makes it pretty clear saying literally, "He turned in anger."

When you read it that way, you almost are fearful for the poor woman. Will Jesus strike her like he does the money changers? It is not likely that this is the case. Jesus reserves his real anger for the scribes and Pharisees who have authority, who have power, who have knowledge about the scriptures, and yet use that power to keep people down and line their own pockets. This also keeps people further away from God. Jesus has come to bring people closer to God. So his anger is usually reserved for those who have power and use it badly.

This poor woman has been kept from being healed. Her bleeding makes her unclean in the society, so she is worse off than just bleeding, she is also an outcast. So, when Jesus sees who

it is, he immediately takes pity on her and reassures her that she is going to be all right. She was brave to take the initiative, and Jesus rewards her for it.

The second healing this week is a young girl, the daughter of Jairus. Jairus is a local leader and respected in the community and synagogue. He is a man of some position, yet as he approaches Jesus, he knelt at his feet and begged for the life of his daughter. Jesus agrees to see her, but he is interrupted on his way there. After the interruption, he overhears the messenger from Jairus' staff telling him the girl has died, there is no more need for Jesus to heal her. But Jesus knows his power, and he knows the girl can be saved, so they hurry off to find her.

When he finds her, he also finds the mourners had taken over her bedroom, and he must drive them out first. Then he touches her, taking her hand, and raises her up from her death bed. She too is filled with energy and runs around the room. Jesus personal touch makes a difference in two lives today.

Jesus returns to the Capernaum, where Peter's house is, and where he centers his ministry in Mark's gospel. Every time he returns, the crowds seem to be larger and more unruly.

This week's story centers on two healings that require faith, but they are different in several regards.

1. The woman with the hemorrhage.

Who has the faith to accomplish the healing? \_\_\_\_\_

Who reaches out to touch? \_\_\_\_\_

How long had she suffered with the hemorrhaging? \_\_\_\_\_ years.

Jesus sends her off \_\_\_\_\_.

2. The daughter of Jairus.

Who has the faith to accomplish the healing? \_\_\_\_\_

Who reaches out to touch? \_\_\_\_\_

How old is the little girl? \_\_\_\_\_ years

Jesus tells the parents to \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Is healing always accomplished by someone having faith in Jesus?  
Does the person healed have to have the faith?

How might we be healed, if we have faith? \_\_\_\_\_

Who can we ask Jesus to heal, by our faith? \_\_\_\_\_