

Restores  
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Mark 5:21-24; 35-43

We celebrate great people. We hang their portraits, make statues of them, name things after them, write volumes about them, etc. **What are the “marks” of greatness -- one or two word descriptions of what makes a person great?**

- Today’s study in Mark five boils down to the greatness of Jesus Christ. More specifically its about our response to and belief in His greatness.
- So far in Mark’s “news report” of Jesus’ ministry we’ve seen miracle after miracle (healings, Jesus calmed a storm, evil spirits were driven out.)
- To the growing crowds Jesus was all about the miracles, but the miracles were all about Jesus – the greatness of Jesus.

Luke 7:20–22 (ESV)

<sup>20</sup> And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’ ” <sup>21</sup> In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. <sup>22</sup> And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them.

John 20:30–31 (ESV)

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup> but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

- The miracles were about proving the greatness of Jesus as the Son of God so we can believe that about Him and have “life” – eternal life.

- The opposite of life is death, the ultimate enemy that every human faces.
- Death (and all other problems in life) is the result of sin.
- Romans 5:12 (ESV) <sup>12</sup> Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— (Adam’s sin made this a fallen world of pain and death.)
- Now Jesus would not only heal sickness, He would publicly defeat death.

Big Idea: Being practical will only get you what is humanly possible. Faith in God’s power through Christ opens the door to what is humanly impossible. When all the practical things have failed, trust God!

- Now we come to Mark 5:22 and a religious leader named Jairus.
- Once again Jesus returns to Capernaum, his base of operations and once again is surrounded by a teeming mob of the curious and the needy.

<sup>22</sup> Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, and seeing him, he fell at his feet <sup>23</sup> 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.” <sup>24</sup> And he went with him.

- Here is a leader in the local synagogue – a prominent Jew – on the ground before Jesus “pleading fervently (NLT)” for Jesus to heal his dying daughter. Clutching the end of his rope, he is DESPERATE.
- Ever been there? So desperate that there’s nowhere to turn but God?

Chuck Swindoll writes: “I can identify with Jairus in his desperate urgency to save his daughter. I’ve been there many times myself.

After experiencing several desperate situations over the years, I have come to accept a difficult truth: Desperation is a gift from God.”<sup>i</sup>

- Have you ever considered that? None of us wants to be in such a state of pain and loss that we're desperate. But desperation drives us (like Jairus) to the feet of Jesus. In that sense desperation is a gift from God.
- Illustration (Flight recorder on Indonesian Lion Air flight. *“God is great,” Mr. Harvino, an experienced Indonesian aviator, said, then recited a verse asking God to grant a miracle.” Sadly, apparently, the wrong god.*<sup>ii</sup>
- With no discussion, Jesus went with Jairus. That's just like Jesus!
- On the way to Jairus' house another miracle happens.
- A woman who had suffered with hemorrhaging for twelve years just touched Jesus' robe and was healed instantly. She too was desperate.
- *“Who touched me?”* Jesus asked.
- Though she was braced for a rebuke, her faith was rewarded as Jesus said, *“Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”* (5:34)
- He called her “daughter.” The only time Jesus said this in scripture. Her faith in His greatness went beyond physical healing to salvation.
- Speaking of daughters, Jairus had to be out of his mind with this delay!
- Just then some messengers showed up with devastating news:

<sup>35</sup> 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?” <sup>36</sup> But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, “Do not fear, only believe.”

- That last phrase deserves a highlight in our Bibles. We're going to need it from time to time in life: Don't fear, just BELIEVE.
- When they reached the house there was great commotion. Family and friends plus some “professional” paid mourners were wailing and crying.

<sup>39</sup> And when he (Jesus) had entered, he said to them, “Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping.” <sup>40</sup> 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 (Peter, James, and John) and went in where the child was. <sup>41</sup> Taking her by the hand he said to her, “Talitha cumi,” which means, “Little girl, I say to you, arise.” <sup>42</sup> And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement. <sup>43</sup> And he strictly charged them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

- As I did with Mark 2, I want us to focus on the “players” in this drama.
- The desperate dad, the practical people, and the miracle-working Master.
- First, let’s look again at Jairus the desperate dad. **Why might throwing himself at Jesus’ feet have been difficult for him? Why was it risky? How is Jairus a model for us?**
- Now, let’s consider the “practical” people.
- First, there were the messengers who said, “...*don’t trouble the teacher!*”
- They didn’t criticize Jesus. “*It was fine to go to Jesus when she was just sick, but she’s dead. Be practical!*” In fairness, they didn’t have a New Testament to know who Jesus is but they were about to find out!
- Verse 36: **How did Jesus respond to overhearing the messengers?**
- Then there were the mourners who literally laughed in Jesus’ face. “*We’re pros at death!*” “*We know dead when we see dead and she’s dead!*”
- Weren’t they just being “practical?” **How did Jesus handle them? How was Jesus response to Jairus and the bleeding woman different than His response to the mourners?**
- Isn’t it good to be practical? Scripture teaches us a lot about being wise and prudent. Ever read Proverbs? Shouldn’t we be practical?
- Generally, it’s wise to be practical. Here are examples of when it’s BAD to be “practical.” Just listen to the voice: “*Don’t pray – be practical!*” “*Don’t trouble Jesus with such trivia – be*

*practical!” “You can’t rely on that religion stuff – be practical!”*

Does that voice sound familiar? It’s the same one who asked Eve, *“Did God really say...?”* Satan loves to propose practicality to keep us from trusting the power and greatness of God.

- Sometimes the practical advice of our friends and family is really just a lack of faith in God wrapped up as common sense.
- That doesn’t mean ignoring obvious “best practices” in life like living healthy, managing your finances, going to the doctor. Do all that!
- But, when all the practical things have failed, trust God!
- Jesus said it: *“Do not fear, only believe.”<sup>iii</sup>*
- Other thoughts?

So, What’s the Takeaway?

- We said, being practical will only get you what is humanly possible. Faith in God’s power through Christ opens the door to what is humanly impossible. When all the practical things have failed, trust God!
- Quoting Swindoll again with three observations:
  - *“First, for humility to displace skepticism, we often must reach the point of desperation. This father, no longer a proud official in the synagogue, became a humbled, broken daddy whose daughter lay dying. He became desperate. And when he humbled himself, he found his Savior waiting, willing, and ready to meet all of his needs, including the one that brought him to desperation.*
  - *Second, for trust to eclipse our panic, we must learn the value of delay. After a while in the process of waiting and waiting and waiting, we relinquish our circumstances to God. When we do, quiet, calm trust rushes in to replace our knee-jerk panic. If you’re worried about one of your children, in time you will learn to bathe your worries with prayers.*
  - *Finally, for faith to replace our fears, we must steer clear of the naysayers. “Look at your friends. When you associate with people who genuinely trust God, your own faith will grow fuller and stronger. It’s amazing how one naysayer can poison an entire group, chipping away at others’ trust in God with a list of reasons to show that God*

*doesn't care or doesn't even exist. People like that are not only negative—they're dangerous. They feed on doubt. They know only what cannot be done. They're focused on the horizontal plane and have no concept of the vertical. Stay away from such people!*<sup>iv</sup>

- My Thought: Being practical and logical is good day in and day out. But, when your back is against the wall with nowhere to turn, practicality is not enough. On the road of faith, when practicality meets the power of God practicality must step aside. When we are out of logical answers and practical solutions, practicality must yield to faith in Christ!
- What about you and me? When we're in a desperate situation do we only rely on practical people or do we trust the miracle-working Master?

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<sup>i</sup> Swindoll, Charles R.. Insights on Mark (Swindoll's Living Insights New Testament Commentary Book 2) (p. 139). Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.. Kindle Edition.

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/20/world/asia/lion-air-crash-boeing.html>

<sup>iii</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (Mk 5:36). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

<sup>iv</sup> Swindoll, Charles R.. Insights on Mark (Swindoll's Living Insights New Testament Commentary Book 2) (p. 141). Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.. Kindle Edition.