

Take ACTION

Weekly Sermon Insert and Devotional

LOVE • LEARN • SHARE • SERVE

Week of January 25th

Action Point: Mark 5:21-43

LOVE God and One Another: This week Jesus is revealed in motion.

LEARN From the Journey: Prayer for each day: *God, thank you for your Word. Help me to see new things today so I can love others in new ways. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

SHARE the Word of God: What would it look like to share the word in action and not “quotes?” Look for a passage this week that you can share that helps you better understand God’s love or God’s presence in your life.

Monday Read Matthew 9:18–26 and Luke 8:40–56. This is the same story as Mark 5:21-43. Get a journal or scrap paper and write down what is unique about each perspective. What do the different details do to change the story? What remains the same regardless of version?

Tuesday Read Leviticus 15:25-31. These are the rules that governed the woman with the issue of blood. Basically, wherever she slept or whatever or whomever she touched would become unclean. So to touch Jesus meant she was not only risking an act where she could be punished (for intentionally making a man unclean) but she could make him unclean and force him to be unavailable for a day.

Wednesday Where did the woman touch Jesus? Did she reach for his hand? Did she touch a lock of his hair? No. It was his clothing. Touching his clothing only, would mean he could get out of “impurity jail” more quickly. Typically, her touching him would mean that impurity went into him (or onto him) and instead, healing came out. That is why there was no mention of Jesus needing to be cleansed, because there was now no source of defilement.

Thursday Read Mark 5:30-31. Jesus feels the power going out from him and the disciples issue one of their best come-backs in all of the Bible to Jesus, roughly translated, “well, duh.” He says someone touched him and he is surrounded by people with boundary issues. But what made the woman different? Why was she healed while no one else received healing or help by touching Jesus or bumping into him? She wanted him to heal her and believed it could happen. What does that teach us about faith when Jesus tells her that “faith has made you well.”?

Friday Read Mark 5:23 and verse 34. What parallel do you see? The word translated “daughter” is the very same word for Jarius’ daughter and the woman who was bleeding. Jesus calls her “daughter” after she has been healed by reaching out and touching his clothes. What might that represent that he doesn’t call her miss or ma’am, but **daughter**? What was more powerful, her physical healing or being restored into community?

Saturday The healing of the little girl is a miracle. Jesus throws out the professional mourners (people of means could have hired mourners to come and weep over their loved ones to make a bigger show) and after the healing commands that she be given something to eat, that the table now solidifies her return to the family and into community. John Wesley wrote about this passage, *So that when with natural or spiritual life is restored, even by immediate miracle, all proper means are to be used in order to preserve it.* Our salvation is the ultimate healing and restoration. What “proper means” are you using to nurture your soul? How do you feed your spirit?

SERVE: Think about people in our time who are disconnected from community because of disease. What are some ways you can connect with them? What offerings of peace could you share?