

- **\*READ Mark 5:21-28\*** The events of Mark 5 might very well be some of the most fascinating found within a single chapter of Jesus's earthly ministry. We didn't read it, but the beginning of this chapter details Jesus's experience with the man possessed by the demons called Legion. **(Mark 5:1-19)** We know well that amazing story in which the demon pleaded with Jesus that he might be cast out into the herd of pigs that then ran down the mountainside and into the sea where they drowned. And if we thought that was the most amazing and perplexing thing in the chapter...well we just need to keep on reading the rest of the chapter.
  - From there we see Jesus going back over to the other side of the sea where He is met by this synagogue official named Jairus. He comes to fall at the feet of Jesus begging Him that He might come and heal his little daughter who is *"at the point of death."* Jesus agrees to go with this man to his home so that his daughter might be healed, and on the way they all find themselves being surrounded by a great crowd of people.
  - During the commotion of Jesus and the others trying to squeeze their way through the crowd, a sick woman pushes her own way through the crowd in order to just touch the garment of Jesus. This woman herself was extremely sick and had been so for twelve years. The text tells us that she had been suffering from a blood hemorrhage, so certainly she would've been physically, mentally, and even spiritually exhausted from having to deal with this for such a lengthy time. Her options for healing were also exhausted for she had spent much time, money, and effort seeking out doctors who could help her condition.
  - This woman was in fact...desperate, but she was not the only desperate individual in this chapter. Not only was she desperate for healing from her condition, but so was Jairus. He was desperate for his little girl to be healed, but so was the demon possessed man. He was desperate to find reprieve from his demons, and he was blessed that Jesus happened to pass by his place of residence in the caves. What we have in **Mark 5** is Jesus and the desperate. These people were at the end of their ropes, and they had nowhere else to turn but to Jesus. Let's use our time of study this evening focusing on that idea of the desperate turning to Jesus and look at how it applies even to us today.
- I. Throughout His ministry, the most desperate of people continuously sought out Jesus.**
- A. The desperate of Mark 5 come to Jesus, but this is not the only time we see such a thing happening.**
1. Here in **Mark 5** we see Jairus coming to Jesus so that He might heal his daughter, which He does even though things got a little scary there at the end for Jairus with his daughter dying before they were able to arrive. **(Mark 5:21-24,35-42)** We also see this woman coming to Jesus so that she could be made well by just touching His garment...and she is immediately made well through doing this seemingly minuscule thing. **(Mark 5:25-34)**
  2. The friends of the lame man in **Luke 5:17-20** were so desperate for Jesus's healing of their friend that they put in a great amount of work and effort in order to lower him down through the roof to where they might reach Jesus. Their effort paid off because Jesus did heal the man.
  3. The centurion of **Luke 7:1-10** loved and highly valued his servant who had become deathly ill, and he sought out Jesus so that he might be healed, and Jesus did heal him without even stepping foot in the centurion's house. These are just four examples of numerous individuals who came to Jesus seeking for help in their most desperate times of need. Not only were they all desperate, but they also had in common the fact that they believed Jesus could truly help.

- B. All of these people sought out Jesus because they believed that He could aid them in their greatest needs.
1. Notice these examples again, and what is stated by Jesus and the inspired writers. Jairus surely believed in the power of Jesus because he stated as much when he first came to Jesus. *"My little daughter is at the point of death; please come and lay Your hands on her, as that she will be made well and live."* (Mark 5:23) Even after he received the news that his daughter had died, Jesus sought to reinforce that faith and belief by telling Jairus, *"Do not be afraid any longer, only believe."* (Mark 5:36)
  2. Faith also played key roles in the healings of the lame man and the servant of the centurion. In **Luke 5:20**, we see Luke recording that it was the faith of the friends that made such an impact on Jesus that He was willing to heal their friend of his inability to walk. Additionally, Jesus said of the centurion that *"not even in Israel have I found such great faith."* (Mark 7:9) The commonality between all of these people was the fact they were in desperate situations, and they all came to Jesus with the belief that He had the power to do something about it. How nice it would've been if all people would've responded to Jesus in such a way.

**II. However, not all people sought out Jesus because not all people saw themselves as being desperate.**

- A. While Jesus had many coming to Him for help and aid, there were also plenty of people who didn't stay with Jesus or who weren't looking for His help and aid.
1. As far as individuals go, the first person who comes to mind as a person who didn't see the need for Jesus was the rich young ruler of **Mark 10:17-22**. He originally came to Jesus seeking to know what needed to be done in order to have eternal life. He seemed to believe that Jesus had the answers, but he ended up going away sorrowful.
  2. I also think of the crowds that left Jesus and followed Him no more from **John 6:60-66**. Jesus had spoken important truths to these individuals concerning Himself being the bread of life sent down from heaven, but they were not willing to listen to His strong teaching any longer, and a great many of them stopped following Jesus at this point.
  3. And then of course there are the Pharisees and other Jews who didn't see Jesus as being someone worthy of following. They continually caused problems for Jesus, and refused to even give Him a fair consideration at times. So often we find Jesus's interactions with these people ending up with them trying to kill Jesus. One such occurrence can be found in **John 8:59**. But why was it that these people had such polar opposite reactions to Jesus compared to those who we have already looked at? I'll suggest it is because these people didn't see themselves as being desperate for what Jesus had to offer them.
- B. Not all people saw Jesus as offering something they needed.
1. The rich young ruler spoke as if he felt a great need for Jesus and eternal life, but when Jesus began to talk about his need to sell all of his possessions and to come follow Him...well that wasn't something that this man cared much for doing. The text tells us explicitly that the young man went away sorrowful because he owned much property. (**Mark 10:22**) This man might have made it seem as if he was in need of that last piece, but the reality was that he felt like he had everything he could ever want in his possessions, and they were more important than the eternal life that Jesus was trying to offer him through total discipleship.
  2. Additionally, the crowds of **John 6** refused to see Jesus as the true bread of life that had been sent down from heaven. They acted as if they truly wanted the bread of life (**John 6:34**), but once Jesus declared Himself as the bread of life...well they quickly lost interest. Their attitude and mindset towards Jesus is summed up well in what Peter said once Jesus asked His closest disciples if they too were going to leave, *"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God."* (**John 6:68,69**) The rest of the people failed to believe as the disciples believed.

3. Finally, the Jews of **John 8** refused to come to Jesus for what He was offering because they didn't see themselves as in need of the freedom that Jesus was offering them. After all, "*We are Abraham's descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone...Abraham is our father.*" (**John 8:33,39**) These men didn't see themselves as being in need of the freedom that Jesus was providing because they leaned upon the fact that they were blood line descendants of Abraham, and as such they believed they had everything already figured out, but we know that this most certainly wasn't the case for as Jesus goes on to say, "*You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father.*" (**John 8:44**) They refused what Jesus offered, when in reality they were in the most desperate need of freedom from the bondage of being enslaved to the devil and his wicked deeds.

### **III. We must seek out Jesus because we are in desperate need for the remedy of sin.**

- A. Before we even talk about our problem of sin...we need to recognize that we ought to observe the same behavior of the good examples we have already looked.
  1. Like Jairus, the sick woman, the friends of the lame man, and the centurion...we must recognize what Jesus is offering and make a habit of constantly going to God when we face the difficulties of life. This life is hard enough as it is when we consider the difficulties that we often face in sickness, loss, and every day problems that we endure. If we truly believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God then we must be a people who constantly go to Him in prayer, "*casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.*" (**I Peter 5:7**)
  2. While Jesus might not be offering the laying on of hands and the power of supernatural healings as He did so personally in the first century, Jesus is still offering comfort and hope to those who struggle at the hands of life's difficulties. The aid He offers us today is the hope of glory in the next life. He offers us comfort and peace knowing that no struggle of this life can cause us to be separated from the grace and mercy of God. (**Romans 8:38,39**) This hope is available to all of those who have gone to Jesus for help with their greatest desperate need in this life...help to be cured from the curse of sin.
- B. Jesus's greatest aid in this life is to cleanse those who are in desperate need for the stain of sin to be erased from their souls.
  1. What ought to be recognized as one of the most beautiful portions of Scripture is found in the text that we opened our assembly with from **Romans 5:6-11**. Notice that Paul declares that all of those who have sinned are helpless. We are all people who at one point or another in our lives were desperate and without hope because of our sins against God. And yet, it was the love of God that caused Him at the right time sent forth Jesus so that we might have the opportunity of being justified by His blood. (**Romans 5:6-9**)
  2. Let's reiterate that we were in the most desperate of situations. Our decisions to sin caused us to become enemies of God, and He would've been just and right to wipe us out because of our transgressions against His will. But instead He sought to allow His enemies to be reconciled back to Him through the death of His Son. That life given would allow for our lives to be saved through our throwing ourselves at His merciful feet and begging to be washed, cleansed, and sanctified through our own faith.
  3. That same faith that helped the desperate people of the New Testament to be aided by Jesus is the same faith that will lead us to be cleansed in the name of and by the power of Jesus Christ our Lord. Jesus surely calls all of those who are weary and heavy-laden to come to Him for He desired to give us rest. (**Matthew 11:28**)

It doesn't matter the era or the year...this life is still mighty difficult at times, and it can be easy for us to want to just throw our hands up in the air and feel as if all hope is lost and there is no reason to go on. That very well could've been what Jairus, the sick woman, and others did during the days of Jesus's ministry, but instead they chose to throw themselves at the feet of Jesus begging for His aid. They were desperate, and the desperate are always welcome at the feet of our loving Lord. May we just the same always remember this as being the case. Our Lord is merciful and forgiving, and He offers those things to the most desperate of people who find themselves overrun with the weight of sin. Praise God for our Saviors strength to carry our desperate souls to a place of hope and joy knowing that He cares for us and will always do what is best for us.

**\*PRAYER\*** *Our great and loving Father...we are so thankful for the love that Jesus showers down upon us each and every day. We are so thankful to serve such a mindful Savior who loves us and cares for us even as individuals. We are so thankful to be able to go to You in prayer laying our burdens and worries at Your feet. We pray that we will always be aware of our desperate position because of sin and other ailments of life. May we always find ourselves in constant dependence upon You for strength in our times of greatest need. We pray that You would be with us as we go throughout this week. May everything that we do be to Your glory, and may we always find strength when we face the trials of life. Thank You for hearing our prayer as it is offered up to You in the name of Your Son Jesus the Christ...amen.*