

LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

February 12, 2012

Series: Jesus 101

“Faith and Power” Mark 5:21-43

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Sermon Summary:

Jayson traced three themes from Mark 5: Faith, Power and Impurity. Faith in Jesus that He can heal us, set us free, even raise from the dead. The kinds of people Jesus goes after are the unclean, the filthy, the deceitful, desperately wicked in their hearts. Power: these stories are demonstrations of the power of God in our lives as well. Once we were out of our minds, destructive to ourselves. We too once had a disease that no one could heal. We too once were dead in our trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1)—it was only when the loving kindness of our God appeared that we were saved. Spiritual Impurity: Only God can save. Salvation is only possible through Christ. We are a broken people. Apart from Christ we are under God’s wrath, but through the cross we’re reconciled. Jairus and the bleeding woman are opposites in almost every possible way, yet they both know where they need to put their faith—in Christ—we need to put our faith in Him as well. We need to run to him, fall at his feet, confess our sin, repent of it and believe.

Group Discussion Questions:

- I. What was the best thing that happened in the last week? What did you struggle with?
- II. Read Mark 5:21-43 (some groups may also wish to delve into the story in 5:1-20 which was referred to briefly on Sunday morning)
- III. What stood out to you from the sermon on Sunday? What strikes you from this text?
- IV. This passage interweaves two accounts of stories from Jesus’ life. The second story, that of a woman with a hemorrhage (v. 25-34) is sandwiched between the two parts of the first story, that of the raising of Jairus’ daughter. Whenever two stories are juxtaposed in this way, it is safe to assume that the author wants us to make comparisons and draw contrasts as a way to learn from the two incidents. What common themes do you see running through these two incidents?
- V. What do these stories teach us about Jesus? About faith?
- VI. Read v. 24 and 30-32. If a large crowd “pressed” around him, why didn’t anyone else but the woman get Jesus’ power? Is there a message in this for us? What can we learn from this woman about faith that “connects” with God’s power?

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Quote: “we will not truly connect to Christ in a substantial way until we see that our most fundamental problems and needs cannot be met by anything in the world....What it means is that a Christian has come to see all the world’s resources as utterly inadequate in the final sense. A Christian comes to see that we have been looking for these things to be a “cure” for the subliminal loneliness, emptiness, or sense of inadequacy we feel. Only when we begin to see that nothing in the world really, finally, satisfies at all, can we come to Christ with anything but the right attitude. ~Tim Keller

VI. Imagine someone you know (or even yourself) making these statements:

“You don't know what I've done.” “You don't know my past.” “You don't know how I've struggled and fought against God.” “I guess I'll just have to try harder to make it on my own”
What is the good news of this passage for these situations?

VII. In our day we may have trouble understanding the concept of “unclean” or “impure”. To be ceremonially unclean was to be unfit for the presence of God. In the Bible these “unclean” laws (Lev. 15:25-30) were a way to teach human beings that God is holy and that we cannot simply go before God unless we are cleansed. How does this help in understanding the way in which the woman approached Jesus? What is the application for us?

VIII. How does this scripture challenge you personally? How does this scripture call us to participate in God’s work in the world?

Quote: on v. 39-42. “Jesus takes the little girl by the hand and says “Little girl, get up.” Though “Talitha”, literally means “little girl”, it was actually a pet name, like “honey, its time to get up”. And to say “get up” is what you would say to any child when awakening them in the morning. Look at this! Jesus takes her by the hand and says, “honey, its time to get up.” Exactly the words her mother or father might say to her on a sunny morning. What a show of power! With Jesus even the greatest enemy of all, death, becomes just a nice night’s sleep. What a show of tenderness! Here’s the real parent we need, who has us by the hand, and will bring us through the very darkest night happy and refreshed and safe. Why wouldn’t you want to hurry to someone like this? ~Tim Keller

IX. What has God been saying to you through this passage? What are you going to do about it?

Working it Out: Who do you know that needs healing? Freedom? Pray together for them. Ask God whether He may want to use you in their life.

May God richly bless your time together as a group!