

February 5

Desperate Believers, Cynical Crowds

Let your tender mercies speedily meet us, for we are in desperate need.
Help us, God of our salvation, for the glory of your name. – Psalm 79:8-9

[Mark 5:22-43, Capernaum] Behold, one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, came; and seeing him, he fell at his feet, and begged him much to come into his house, for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying saying, “My little daughter is at the point of death. Please come and lay your hands on her, that she may be made healthy, and live.”

He *got up and* went with him, and a great multitude followed him, and they pressed upon him on all sides. A certain woman, who had an issue of blood for twelve years, and had suffered many things by many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better, but rather grew worse, having heard the things concerning Jesus, came up behind him in the crowd, and touched the fringe of his clothes. For she said *within herself*, “If I just touch his clothes, I will be made well.” Immediately the flow of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction.

Immediately Jesus, perceiving in himself that the power had gone out from him, turned around in the crowd, and asked, “*Who touched my clothes?*”

His disciples, Peter and those with him, said to him, “You see the multitude pressing against you, and you say, ‘Who touched me?’”

But Jesus said, “*Someone did touch me, for I perceived that power has gone out of me.*” He looked around to see her who had done this thing. But the woman, saw that she was not hidden; fearing and trembling, knowing what had been done to her, [she] came and fell

down before him and declared to him in the presence of all the people the reason why she had touched him, and how she was healed immediately.

**Don't be afraid,
only believe**

He said to her, “*Daughter, cheer up! Your faith has made you well.*”

Go in peace, and be cured of your disease. And the woman was made well from that hour.

While he was still speaking, people came from the synagogue ruler's house saying, “Your daughter is dead. Why bother the Teacher any more?”

But Jesus, when he heard the message spoken, immediately said to the ruler of the synagogue, “*Don't be afraid, only believe, and she will be healed.*”

He allowed no one to follow him, except Peter, James, and John the brother of James. He came to the synagogue ruler's house, and he saw an uproar, *flute players*, weeping, and great wailing. When he had entered in, he said to them, “*Why do you make an uproar and weep? Make room, the child is not dead, but is asleep.*”

They ridiculed him knowing that she was dead. But he, having put them all out, took the father of the child, her mother, and those who were with him, and went in where the child was lying. Taking the child by the hand, he said to her, “*Talitha cumi!*” which means, being interpreted, “*Girl, I tell you, get up!*” Immediately her spirit returned and the girl rose up and walked, for she was twelve years old. They were amazed with great amazement. He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and commanded that something should be given to her to eat.

The report of this went out into all that land. [Luke 8:40-56, Matthew 9:19-26]

1. Twelve years is a long time to love or to suffer, what made these believers desperate?
2. What makes you desperate? Cynical? What will you do to put your faith in action today?
3. Jesus, no problem, no matter how big or persistent, is too tough for you, so please...

