

Title: GIFTS OF LIFE, MARK 5:21 – 43
(Chatham, NJ; 07/01/12, AM) [Pt – Narrative Analysis]

Theme: Through the sparse dialogue of two of Jesus' healings Jesus demonstrates the offer of healing and life.

Purpose: To offer healing for our sin-sick souls by describing what Jesus says to a sick woman and a dead little girl.

1. Mark begins the story of one healing, interrupts the story to tell another one, then finishes the first.
2. Jesus has crossed back over the Sea of Galilee from the Decapolis to the region of Israel. He just healed a demon-possessed man who wanted to accompany him (19-20).
3. These episodes are remarkable on several levels: the woman never asks for healing, she assumes that she will get it; Jesus claims that the little girl is sleeping without even seeing her.
4. Perhaps the remarkable nature of the miracles is why the Gospels include them among the many they could have included.
5. Even more remarkable is the limited dialogue of Jesus. He doesn't say much, but his words address us.

I. The Two Story Lines

- A. Begins and ends with Jairus and his daughter
 1. He was a ruler of a synagogue (not all rulers were hypocrites)
 2. He implores Jesus' help on behalf of his "little daughter" (a show of affection?)
 3. He expresses confidence that Jesus can and will do so (23)
 4. They begin the journey to his home immediately
- B. A woman with a "discharge of blood" (25): internally?
 1. Sick for 12 years
 2. Exhausted her ability to pay for more treatments (26); her condition worsened
 3. She has heard about Jesus, and she believes that he can heal her
 4. She doesn't bother to ask him
- C. A common theme runs through the lives of the characters in both episodes
 1. Desperation – no other hope for the girl or the woman?
 2. Hannah turned to God in her time of trial, 1 Samuel 1:10
 3. David also needed God when he could depend on no one else, 30:6
 4. God cares about the lowly and oppressed

II. First Dialogue: with the woman

- A. Who touched my garments?
 1. The disciples are astonished at his comment: all have been touching him
 2. Luke 8:46, Jesus said he perceived the power of healing had been activated
 3. The woman also felt the healing within her body (29)
 4. She fell before him with fear and trembling (33)
- B. Go in peace (34)
 1. Your faith has made you well
 2. Be healed of your disease
 3. Go in peace – don't be afraid
 4. The Prince of Peace satisfies our desperate longing for wholeness
 5. We need the deeper healing of our souls
 6. We can go in peace only when we have this

III. Second Dialogue: with Jairus and his daughter

- A. Don't be afraid, believe
 - 1. Jairus is informed of his daughter's death (35)
 - 2. But Jesus assures him
 - 3. Fear drove the disciples in the boat to desperation; Jesus chides them for their lack of faith (Mark 4:40)
 - 4. Faith conquers fear

- B. The child is sleeping (39)
 - 1. They laughed at him
 - 2. Same comment he makes of Lazarus, John 11:11
 - 3. A theological statement about death?
 - 4. But he could also be trying to hide from the crowd what he was going to do; remember that he charges the disciples to say nothing about it (43)

- C. Little girl, arise
 - 1. Once again she is described as "little" (though she was twelve)
 - 2. Young, vulnerable, precious?
 - 3. Jesus demonstrates the same tenderness toward her that he father had
 - 4. He brings her back from death (42): "she immediately began walking"

Conclusions:

- 1. "Go in peace," he says to the woman.
- 2. When we believe, we too can walk in peace with God.
- 3. "Don't fear, believe," he says to Jairus as soon as he received bad news.
- 4. Fear dissipates in an attitude of faith; when God is for us, who can be against us (Romans 8:31-32).
- 5. "Arise," he says to the little girl.
- 6. He offers a rising to all who believe.
- 7. Peace, faith, resurrection: these are all part of the Gospel.
- 8. We obtain them by responding to the Gospel: believe, repent (see our need for healing), confess our faith, and be baptized.
- 9. This is when the journey begins.
- 10. Be resolved to walk with him in peace in this world and in eternal life in the next.