

The STORY - Week Twenty-Four

March 26, 2017

Nothing Ordinary

MARK 5:21-43

Despite the urgency of the condition of Jairus' daughter and Jesus' determination to reach her, Jesus acknowledges the ill woman who has the faith—not to mention the audacity—to reach out and claim His healing power. Both victims of illness are female and ritually unclean, one as a result of death and one as a result of hemorrhage; both represent the significance of the number twelve in Jewish tradition (the 12 years of hemorrhage and the 12-year-old girl); and both are regarded as “daughters”. An act of touch restores both women to new life even as those surrounding them lack understanding - Beverly Zink-Sawyer (2009).

Hidden in this tale is a flash of precious intimacy between two human beings who are socially very distant from each other. Their scandalous touch does not yield the anger and alienation you might expect. Rather, it brings wholeness, healing, and peace -Michael L. Lindvall (2009).

Behind the healing and the raising of Jairus' daughter is the truth that Jesus does not exercise His authority as a mechanical response in a clinical setting. When He cures the incurable, His authority blends the raw power of God with emotional respect for a woman who has become a full partner in the faith. When Jesus raises Jairus' daughter from the dead, His omnipotence carries the touch of a father's love - David L. McKenna (1984).

Next week: Jesus - The Son of God

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FINDING YOUR STORY IN GOD'S STORY

It wasn't easy for Jairus to publicly ask for Jesus' help.

Jairus' peers would not approve.

Trusting was easier when Jairus' daughter was alive.

Jesus reassured Jairus with words of faith:

Don't be afraid, keep believing!

Jesus was interrupted and healed another person.

Can we trust Him when God seems to be delayed?

Words of hope: "She is not dead, but only asleep!"

The girl came back to life without any sign of illness.

The woman was anonymous; Jairus a public official.

Both were loved and helped that day.

Words of peace: Mark 5:34

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