

**A TYPICAL SEGMENT IN OUR LORD’S LIFE**

Mark 5:21-43

**Intro:** Perhaps one of the most difficult things that we as Christians have to do, is to think of God as God. We are more inclined to think of Him as a man. The Lord uses strange instruments, and Balaam in the OT was one of them. He seems to have possessed certain superhuman powers, was used to teach people certain truths about God, and yet was not a true man of God himself. Peter called him a man “who loved the wages of unrighteousness” and that what Balaam did in the OT in seeking to curse Israel was called “the madness of the prophet” (2 Pet. 2:15, 16). And if you read the remainder of 2 Peter 2 you will learn that Balaam could not have been a man of faith, but was one who was one of the many “servants of corruption.” He was like a lot of people who know a lot of truth, but they do not know the One Who is “the truth.” Jude spoke of Balaam as one for “whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever” (Jude 11-13).

In Revelation 2:14 the Lord Jesus, in his letter to the church Pergamos warned the people of that church in these words:

14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam , who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication (Rev. 2:14).

So Balaam, with the knowledge of God that He had, was a phoney who would use the gifts that he did have to do anything that would put money in his hands.

However, having said that about Balaam, he did give us one of the best statements about God that you will find in all of Scripture, which ought to warn all of us that because a man teaches some things about God that are true, it does not mean than he is a true man of God, or one that we should follow.

Balaam was a covetous impostor, but this is what he told Balak, the king of Moab, about God:

19 God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good? (Num. 23:19).

I learned that verse years ago before I realized who said it. But I am not sorry that I learned it. It is excellent theology. But the fact that Balaam

said it does not prove that he was a child of God. But God used that false prophet to communicate some very important truth to Balak about God. But this is truth that Balaam knew only in his head; it had never gotten to his heart!

So let us not be deceived into thinking that just because a man knows some truth, that all that he says, or does, is of God.

Man was created in the image of God, but this does not mean that God is in the image of man. The Lord Jesus became a Man, but He did not become a sinner. When God created Adam and Eve, He did not create them as sinners. They became sinners by their disobedience. But God has never sinned. And so He has never needed to repent about anything that He has ever done. Even those of us who know the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, who have been born again, are still sinners, and really need to repent every day either of bad things that we have done, or of good things that we have failed to do.

This morning I would like to see this truth about God written upon all of our hearts by the Holy Spirit. He is the only One Who can make us know that “God is not a man.” He is not “the son of man” like you and I are. Some day you and I are going to be more like God and more like Christ than we are now, but we will never be God. Being like God is not being God. So when you and I were first saved, and brought into the family of God, our hearts were opened to a whole new area of truth which we only had in a very limited way before. We knew that there was a God, and we knew that He was greater than we are, but we did not know how different He was from us until we began to understand the Bible. As I have said many times before, and others have said it long before I said it, that the Bible is not only *from God*, but it is *about God!*

None of us has ever seen God. If people say that they have seen God, they are lying to you. The Bible says that “no man hath seen God at any time” (John 1:18). And that means that no one has ever seen God – ever! But it also tells that Jesus Christ, Who came to earth as a Man, came to reveal God to us. This applies to our text for today. We have here in the latter part of Mark 5, in these miracles performed by our Lord Jesus Christ, some wonderful truths about God. Personally I believe that this was, as I have indicated in my subject, *a typical segment in our Lord’s life*. What do I mean by this? I mean that there were times, probably many times, when two or more people, or three or four or more, came to

the Lord with an earnest request *at the same time*.

These two stories are mingled together. Both were urgent. Jairus, the ruler of the synagogue, had a twelve year old daughter (see verse 42) who was sick, and dying. Think of Jairus' request as a prayer. We are not told that he was a believer. Probably most of the people who came to the Lord for healing were not believers. But their requests have to be taken as prayer because they were addressing Deity when they called upon the Lord Jesus Christ for help.

The Lord responded immediately, but I can imagine the alarm that must have been in Jairus' heart by the way in which the people "thronged" the Lord. This means that people were on all sides of the Lord – in front, on each side, and following behind. If you have ever tried to get through a crowd when you were in a hurry, you can picture in your mind how the Lord was hindered from making any time. And every moment was important, especially to the father of the little girl, to get the Lord to their home in time to save his daughter.

But then something else happened to delay the Lord even more.

There was a woman there who had been struggling with an issue of blood for twelve years. She didn't try to talk to the Lord because with all of the people she had little hope that He would be able to hear her. At least this is probably what she was thinking. But she was so certain that, if she got close enough to touch the Lord's garment, she would be healed. This story is repeated in the Gospels of Matthew (9:18-26) and Luke (8:41-56). Luke tells us that she had been to many physicians and that she had spent all of her money trying to find some one who could help her and heal her. But it had all been in vain. She was very desperate, and probably very weak from all of the loss of blood.

She finally got through the crowd, and up to the Lord. She touched His garment, and immediately she was healed, and she knew it. But then the Lord must have stopped, turned around, and asked, "Who touched my clothes?" That sounded like a ridiculous question to the disciples, and response to the Lord's question indicated that they thought that his question did not make sense. And so they said, "Thou seest the multitude thronging you, and sayest thou, 'Who touched me?'" Everybody who could get near to the Lord touched Him. Many were pushed by the crowd into the Lord. But the Lord knew that somebody had touched Him in

faith. So when He turned around and saw the woman, she in fear and trembling fell down before the Lord and told Him the truth – that she had been sick for twelve years, that she had spent all of her money trying to find a doctor who could help her, but none could help her. Then the Lord said a very gracious thing to her which is recorded in Mark 5:34:

Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.

Now all of this was taking time. And standing there beside the Lord (and he may have had a hard time staying with the Lord), was a very anxious father, conscious of every minute that was passing. And sure enough, one of the house servants of the Lord finally got through the crowd and told him that what he had feared would happen, had, in fact, happened. His precious little daughter was dead!

No doubt he felt that if the crowd had not slowed the Lord down, and if that woman had not taken so much of the Lord's time, the Lord might have gotten to their home in time to save his daughter. Jairus felt just like Mary and Martha expressed themselves when the Lord got to their home too late to save Lazarus from death. You will remember that they both told the Lord the same thing: "Lord, if Thou hadst been here, my brother had not died" (John 11:21, 32).

Now I don't want to be misunderstood about the teaching of this passage. Occasionally we do see even today evidences of special healing, but we all have to admit that we are not seeing miracles today like the Lord performed while He was here on earth. Sometimes people are revived whose heart had stopped beating, but I have never known of anybody who has actually been raised from the dead. This does not make me doubtful of these miracles in the Bible. I really believe that the Lord did raise people from the dead, and especially in Lazarus' case after he had been dead four days. The miracles of our Lord were proof of His Deity. I have mentioned that before, and most of you know that the Apostle John said in John 20:30-31 that the miracles were signs, or proofs, that He was the Son of God, and that they were also encouragement for us to believe that if we trusted in Him, we would have eternal life.

But, as important as it is to believe that salvation is through, and only through, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, are there other lessons for us to learn from these parables which are so important that they have a place in all three of the Synoptic Gospels? And let me remind you that all that we

learn about the Lord Jesus Christ, applies equally to God. And we have our Lord's teaching to prove that. He told Philip when Philip said, "Show us the Father," He responded by saying, "Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, 'Show us the Father?'"

During the earthly ministry of our Lord we have a local picture in Israel of the Father's ministry world-wide, and generation after generation. And when I say "the Father's ministry," I include that of the Son of God as well as the Spirit of God because They all Three work together.

I would point out to you that these miracles show that the things that are not possible to men, are possible to God. The Lord did for a woman who touched His garment, what the physicians had not been able to do over a twelve year period, and it didn't even take twelve seconds! And He did for that twelve year old girl what men could not do for her because you can be sure that as the ruler of the local synagogue in a Jewish society, he would have had access to the latest medical help which was available.

But let's not limit this to just physical problems. Some of you have children who are not walking with the Lord, or special loved ones and friends for whom you have been praying, perhaps for years, but you have not seen any change in their lives. Should you stop praying. Maybe you have become depressed because of your own failure to walk with the Lord. Many of the Lord's people are troubled about sin. Others are going their own way, seeking to satisfy their needs, but are not looking to the Lord. And yet they are not troubled by such sin. Our God is a mighty God, able, as the Apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians, to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think. See Ephesians 3:20-21.

We are not told about anything that Jairus said to the Lord as he and the Lord tried to make their way to his home when the crowd definitely slowed them down. He would have been a very unusual father if he had not been greatly exercised in his heart that they might not get there on time. And they didn't get there in time. But the Lord had an even greater work to do for that Jewish leader. And He did it when He raised her from the dead. For Him it was just like awakening her from a deep sleep. But she really was dead. Often the delays and interruptions which we experience are because the Lord sees that we need a work in our hearts as well as the need that we are primarily concerned about at the time. Notice that the Lord knew what was wrong with the woman before she touched Him.

And it is wonderful to know that the Lord never gets our needs mixed up, nor does He neglect to meet one person's need because He has been delayed by meeting another person's need.

And when you think of the numbers of people who literally "thronged" the Lord with their needs, calling upon Him for help, how would you compare that with the number of people in a given day who are bringing their needs to the Lord. The numbers must be astronomical, inconceivably large. And yet if all of us in this room were to call upon the Lord at one time, He hears all of us. He never gets my needs mixed up with your needs, or yours with mine. He doesn't need to keep notes so He will not forget us. It doesn't make any difference as to the language we speak. The Lord spoke to Jairus' daughter in Aramaic. His words meant, "Little girl, rise!" But life had already been restored to her in order for her to be able to hear any sound at all. Our request can be very minor, or one with major consequences touching many lives. Nothing is too hard for the Lord; nothing is too insignificant.

There probably were others in the crowd who were shouting, trying to get the Lord's attention so that He would do something for them. But this parable is told so that we know that He hears every request.

It took a lot of humility for the ruler of the synagogue to go to the Lord. And he would have been severely criticized for what he did. But the Lord knows how to break down our resistance to the Gospel, and to make us willing to come to Him.

**Concl:** What a picture we have of the tenderness of God, of the sufficiency of God in His wisdom to do the right thing at the right time. The important thing in all of our trials is what it has to do in our relationship with the Lord. And that may be the greatest lesson as the Spirit of God has drawn together these two pictures, not mainly the child and the woman, but the man Jairus and the woman. It shows that for the moment the Lord may delay His answer to us because He is ministering to some one else, but that He will eventually in His time, which is the right time, get to me.

There are others involved in this story as well. We see Peter and James and John again. Again, they are not doing, but watching and listening and learning. And at the end of the story we see Jairus' wife mentioned for the first time. She did not leave her little girl's side. She was there to the

Mark 5:21-43 (7)

very end. But who can possibly imagine what joy was in the heart of these parents when the Lord Jesus said to their precious daughter, “Little girl, rise.” We probably never understand fully God’s delays, but there is always a purpose behind them. And the patience that God works in our hearts, sends us on our way with peace in our hearts.