

DISCUSSION NOTES

DECEMBER 18, 2016

Pray and ask God to teach you, help you trust Him more deeply, & strengthen you to live what you learn.

GETTING STARTED

1. As a child, what was one gift you wanted very badly which you had to wait a long time before receiving?

DIGGING IN

2. In what ways are the man and the woman in Mark 5:21-43 different (make a short list)? In what significant way are they the same? What do we learn from this?

(Bible Study Note: Mark uses a "sandwich" technique here, sandwiching the story of the woman in between the beginning and end of the other story. This likely tells the story as it happened, but it also adds dramatic effect and allows him to communicate a larger message connecting the two episodes thematically).

3. What do we learn from Mark's comment about the impact of all the physicians' efforts? What had human effort been able to do for this lady? What does this say about God's power?
4. Why did the power of Jesus move to this woman but not move toward every other person in the crowd that touched him as they crowded around him? What does Jesus say made the difference?
5. From Jairus' perspective, the healing of this woman is an interruption, stalling Jesus and putting his daughter further at risk. What can we learn from this? What does it say about times when God doesn't seem to move quickly enough?
6. In these situations, Jesus offers insight and instruction to both the woman (vs. 34) and the man (vs. 36) about their response. What did Jesus highlight in both cases? Why is this important?
7. How would you describe the faith of the woman and the man? Was it strong or weak? Theologically informed or confused? Perfect or imperfect? What do we learn about the kind of faith Jesus requires?
8. How might Mark 5:21-43 be connected to the preceding episodes of Jesus calming the storm (Mark 4:35-41) and Jesus freeing the demoniac (Mark 5:1-20)? What common theme runs through all three incidents that Mark is connecting?

LIVING IT OUT

9. Do you tend to feel more like the outsider who needs to be noticed and uplifted by Jesus or like the confident insider who has to humble himself or herself when needs arise? Why?
10. Have you ever found yourself in a situation you couldn't fix on your own that caused you to cry out for help? Have you ever felt like God was delaying or slow to act? What happened and what did you learn about trusting God through the experience?
11. In what ways must our faith be focused on the person of Jesus? How can we keep our eyes on Jesus' strength and power rather than focusing on our own ability and strength? Do you find this difficult?
12. Which is more important—the strength of our faith or the object of our faith? How might this encourage us?